



NEWS FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

MARCH 2008

SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer school classes will be offered to those students who need to repeat a class due to a failing grade (or a D in math). Two semesters of summer school are being offered and students must repeat the semester that they failed. It will run from June 16th through July 18th. July 4th is a holiday—no classes on this day. This year's summer program will be at Aptos Junior High School. Other summer school options may include Cabrillo College or Adult School summer programs. See your counselor.

ACADEMIC REMINDER FOR COLLEGE

Just a reminder that a D as a semester grade will give the student 5 credits towards high school graduation, but colleges do not accept a grade of D. **IF A STUDENT EARNS A D OR F IN A CLASS THAT IS NEEDED FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS, THE CLASS MUST BE REPEATED.** Summer school is the best option, but see your counselor for other options. Don't wait until it's too late to repeat a necessary class, and always work with your counselor before registering for a class offered elsewhere.

REGISTRATION FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS

Registration for the **next school year** began in February. Counselors met with incoming 9th graders and their parents during evening appointments. Next year's Seniors and their parents were mailed appointment letters and will meet with their counselor during March 8th to the 18th to choose classes and go over post secondary options. Contact your counselor if you did not receive an appointment letter.

Freshmen and sophomore students were asked to turn in course request forms after registration presentations by the counselors. Students were asked to discuss educational goals with parents/guardians and select classes based upon those goals.

Parents/guardians of current **freshmen and sophomore** students will be invited to individual counseling appointments, which will take place between **June 9 and June 16**. Adjustments to schedules will be made at that time. This is an excellent opportunity to keep on top of your student's progress. **EXPECT A LETTER FROM YOUR STUDENT'S COUNSELOR IN MAY THAT WILL GIVE YOU THE DATE AND TIME OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENT.**

All students deserve equal access to challenging courses. If students want to take an advanced course, please check the course catalog online to see that the pre-requisites have been met—these are in place to make sure the student is set up to succeed.

THE FOLLOWING CLASSES REQUIRE A SIGNED CONTRACT AT THE TIME THAT COURSE REQUESTS ARE TURNED IN TO COUNSELORS:

- English 1, Accelerated,
- English 2, Accelerated
- Honors American Literature
- AP English Literature,
- AP European History,
- AP U.S. History,
- AP Government,
- AP Economics
- Yearbook.

We encourage students to take a rigorous course load. See the Course Catalog at our website: www.aptoshs.net

FOCUS ON SENIORS

Cabrillo-bound students for Fall 2008: Sign up now in I-205 to take the assessment tests for math and English. The tests will be given on April 22nd and 23rd at AHS in the Library. This grants you eligibility for the Running Start Program, which gives you priority registration! Space is limited and sign ups have been advertised for several weeks already, so sign up soon.

If you are not sure what you want to do after graduation, consider taking the placement test for Cabrillo and attending the orientation. Make an appointment with a counselor at Cabrillo—they can help students find a pathway that fits their personality and values. The Cabrillo counselors are very accessible, and all you need to do is call and make an appointment.

FOCUS ON JUNIORS

College Admissions Tests:

- If you are considering a California State University, take the SAT I at least once as a junior. (May 3rd, June 7th.)
- If you plan to attend a University of California or private university, take the SAT I and SAT II at least one time each as a junior. We recommend taking the SAT I on May 3, and the SAT II on June 7. This gives you at least one opportunity to re-take if you want to better your scores.
- There are excellent resources and practice tests available on-line at collegeboard.org.

NOTE: The SAT I and SAT II scores from the December date of your senior year is the last testing date for college. Plan carefully!

This Summer: Visit the campuses you are interested in. See our Guidance Department website to help you with the college selection process. By the end of this summer, you should have your college choices narrowed down to the top 7 colleges that you would like to attend.

Next Year: Maintain a rigorous senior year schedule with five or more UC approved classes each semester.