

All Seniors - Please take a moment to read this bulletin in its entirety. You won't want to miss out on options for your future and \$\$\$\$ opportunities.

Next Steps #2

January 9, 2012

Keep Informed / Ask for Help

Updates and information are in the bulletin, on the website, distributed in senior classes and at informational sessions/nights. Make sure that you are staying informed. "You snooze, you lose".

Attending Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC)?

An SRJC Counselor presentation will take place at SVHS on **Tuesday, March 6th** from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the Pavilion. Students must sign up to attend the presentation in the Counseling Office. Further information will be in the bulletin.

The SRJC English Placement Tests will be on **Tuesday, March 13th** and **Thursday, March 15th**. English placement test sign-ups will take place in the Counseling Office in mid-February. The Math Placement Tests will take place at the Santa Rosa or Petaluma SRJC campuses. Go to www.santatrosa.edu/app/placement for a current schedule.

To sign up for either the English or the math placement test, students must first register as an SRJC student. Be sure to READ the **"Steps to Apply and Register at SRJC"** instructions carefully. Copies of these instructions are in the Counseling Office or the College & Career Center. Also, don't forget to check your EAP results to see if you may be exempt from taking the placement tests. (See below information about EAP.)

What's EAP?

EAP is the **Early Assessment Program (EAP)** which was administered as a part of the STAR standardized testing you completed in the spring of your junior year. The **EAP results determine your readiness for college-level English and mathematics**. Your results are listed on the bottom left hand corner of your personal STAR report. They can also be viewed by going to our high school website www.sonomavalleyhigh.org. Click on "Counseling", then "College Advising", and then "EAP Status Check." The results will say: *"Ready for College level course", "Ready for CSU college level courses – Conditional" or "Not Ready for CSU College."* If your results determine that you are "Ready for College" in English and/or mathematics, you will be able to waive the placement tests in that subject area for both the CSUs and SRJC. If you will be attending a CSU, and your EAP scores indicate that you are "Not Ready" or "Conditional", you must satisfy other criteria and/or take the English Placement Test (EPT) and/or Entry Level Mathematics (ELM). (See additional information below.)

Will You Be Attending a CSU? Do you need to take the EPT or ELM?

Requirements to complete CSU applications have become increasingly complicated with several campuses adding additional criteria and deadlines. **Read instructions carefully**, since many campuses are using these various deadlines to disqualify applicants. Several students in the past have had their applications denied when test scores and/or transcripts were not sent by random dates set by individual campuses. It is ultimately **YOUR** responsibility to make sure these deadlines are met.

DO you need to take the **English Placement Test (EPT)** and/or the **Entry Level Mathematics (ELM)** test? You may be exempt from the either EPT and/or ELM placement tests if: 1) your EAP results indicate readiness for CSU college level courses; 2) you obtained a score of 500 for English or 550 for math, or higher on your SAT; 3) you passed with a 22 for English or a 23 for math, or higher on the ACT; or 4) you passed with a 3 on the AP English Language, AP Calculus or AP Statistics exam. For more information about CSU placement tests go to <http://www.ets.org/csu/about>. You may take the EPT and/or ELM for any CSU at Sonoma State University (SSU). For a listing of SSU test dates and to register online, go to www.sonoma.edu/testing. January 30th is the registration deadline for the 2/11 administration at SSU. Additional dates are: 3/17, 4/21 and 5/7, but dates are subject to change. It is **YOUR** responsibility to know whether or not you need to take these placement tests **and** the required deadlines for the CSU you will attend. This year, graduating class of 2011, will be the first year that graduates who do not pass the placement tests will be required to participate in an "Early Start" program **PRIOR** to enrolling for the Fall 2012. Please be on the lookout for this notification.

\$\$\$\$\$ Financial Aid / School Grants / Scholarships \$\$\$\$\$ - ALL SENIORS

Complete the **FAFSA** as soon as possible. Money available is often “first come, first served”, so the earlier the better. There will be a “Cash for College” workshop on **Saturday, January 21st** at SVHS in the library computer lab for assistance in completing the FAFSA. Students attending the workshop will be entered into a drawing to win \$1000.00. There will be one or two SVHS Dragon winners so your odds are good. Although the advertised deadline for the FAFSA is **March 2nd**, many colleges require an earlier submittal. To complete the FAFSA go to www.fafsa.ed.gov There is **NO** cost to complete the FAFSA.

If you haven't already done so, sign up for **Cal Grants**. It's easy, it's simple. Just see Kyra Halkovich, the SVHS Registrar, by **February 17th**. You will need to give her your social security number.

Scholarship Night #2 for all seniors and their parents is **Thursday, February 23rd** at 6:00 p.m. in the Pavilion. A list of the current scholarships is also available on the high school website at www.sonomavalleyhigh.org, in the Counseling Office and, in the College & Career Center. The list will be updated weekly with possible new scholarships, so check regularly.

For 4-year college-bound applicants only, check financial aid links for **EACH** school to which you have applied. Many private schools will have their own financial aid form and/or an additional required profile called the **CSS Profile**. Also check each school for possible scholarships.

Student Housing

Sign up for student housing as directed by **EACH** school. Some schools will suggest that you sign up for housing even before you find out that you are accepted. Do it! Some schools, such as San Francisco State University, have **VERY** early deadlines. You don't want to be left without housing for the college of your choice.

Communication w/ Colleges – ALL SENIORS

When you receive notification from colleges of a student number and/or ID #, establish your cubby/portal/student account immediately. Keep a record of passwords and login ids. Check your cubbies/portals/student accounts for **EACH** college to which you applied at least once a week. Also, check your personal e-mails regularly. If you have 3,768 e-mails in your inbox like one SVHS college bound student, it will be difficult to monitor your e-mails. You might consider blocking your e-mails on your profile setting of your Facebook. Notification of incomplete applications, other issues or requests for more information, including transcripts, will be communicated electronically, but not always by e-mail. Check student accounts as well. You are responsible to follow up on requests from **EACH** institution. **In the past, several students have had their applications disqualified at CSU Sacramento, San Jose State, CSU Monterrey and San Francisco State for missing deadlines to submit test scores and/or transcripts.**

As always,

- ***If you are still unsure about your post high school plans, make an appointment to see your counselor.***
- ***When you don't know something, ask. Ask at the front desk, ask in the College & Career Center, ask in the Counseling Office, ask a teacher, ask your counselor, ask the Registrar, etc., etc.***
- ***If you don't hear the bulletin at school, make a point of reading the bulletin online or at a place that is posted on campus. Many announcements throughout the spring apply just to seniors.*** kh 1/2012