

## Junior Question/Answer (Q&A)

### CLASSROOM VISIT – FALL 2010

The following questions were generated from **you and the Junior Survey!** This document will show each of you how many of you asked the same questions and then my responses. The number in ( ) indicates each time one of you asked the same or similar question. 375 of you gave me feedback on your college or work plans and your career choices. Questions will be grouped by category. Thank each of you that contributed to this presentation by filling in the Q&A section of the Junior Survey!

#### 1. SAT/ACT (30)

**Dates (16)** - (Handout) You may sign up now for any date it is given. Do not wait, especially if you want to test at CHS. Space is limited. It is wise to have Algebra 2 either finished or almost finished before taking it.

**How do I sign up (6)?** - Sign up online if at all possible using a credit card or waiver if you qualify. You may use our computers in the Career Center if you do not have access at home. You are registered on the College Board **IF** you were present last January when I had you register in the Library Lab. You may Google this site or use the handout for the website.

**How high does my score have to be, to be automatically admitted (4)?** - The top 10% of the Class of 2012 will automatically be admitted into public colleges and universities in Texas based on rank. UT will use top 9% for the Class of 2012. This means to be admitted the score on the SAT/ACT can be any score. IF your rank is less than the top 9%-10%, the higher you score the better. 1600 is the highest possible score without the writing component. The writing component is used for other purposes but not admission at this time. 800 is the perfect score on each of the 3 sections. College scholarships revolve around these scores as well. Remember, these scores are indicators of your potential success at the college level but they are not definers of your success.

**Do I have to take a SAT/ACT to start college?** No, you do not if you are beginning at a Community College, Tech School or Trade School. You may take an ACCUPLACER or THEA instead. When you are through with your Associates degree you may apply to a 4 year college or university with your community college transcript. Keep in mind , some scholarships at the university level revolve around a SAT/ACT score!

#### 2. SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION (22)

**National/State** - The vast majority of scholarships are for Seniors. Ms. Martinez in the Career Center is a treasure. She is constantly updating a list of scholarship opportunities. She gets information out on the announcements, on a 1-1 basis and on e-mails. Sign up to be put on her List Serve to receive all of her information!!!!

<http://staff.comalisd.org/renee.martinez/> go to SUBSCRIBE at the bottom of the page and click

**Local** - Each year the entire Senior class receives instructions on how to apply for local scholarships. You will have a set period of time to fill in the applications and turn it in to the Counseling office. These are then given to all of the local contributors. There is a Senior Award ceremony in May where everyone sees who has won these scholarships.

**College** - Many scholarships are given at the college/university of your choice. It is up to you to check online or in their catalogue to see the qualifications. This is a time your SAT/ACT can really help. We will help you research this if needed.

**Specific scholarships (5) (twirling, football, color guard, etc) (5)** - Many college specific scholarships require a tryout to participate. Let me know if you are unable to e-mail or call the school you are interested in participating at. Timelines are crucial. Other sport related scholarships require you to be registered with the **NCAA**. This is done by you and is done online and finished with a registration fee. Notify me so we can send a transcript the end of the Junior and Senior year to complete the **NCAA** application process. There is a special form for this.

### 3. FINANCIAL AID (8)

**Loans** - All financial aid revolves around you and your family filling in the **FAFSA** after January 1 of your senior year. This online form uses your parent's income tax filing to determine the amount of need you have. Colleges look at this and determine how much money they can help you with. We hold workshops at CHS to help. The quicker you get the **FAFSA** done the quicker your school can tell you how much money they can loan you. The interest rate of the loan can be either a very low interest rate or sometimes at a 0% interest rate. This does not have to be paid back until you finish school and you are working.

**Grants** - Grants are called free money. Usually they are need based. This money does not have to be paid back. The **FAFSA** must be filled out to receive this money.

**Work-Study** - Colleges also allow students to work for them in trade for books, tuition, etc. **FAFSA** is required.

Many feel they will not get any help or money due to their family's income. I feel it is important to follow the process of applying just in case a school sees something that they can help you with financially. Some schools use the **FAFSA** for scholarships (merit and need based) as well!

### 4. CAREER CENTER (16) Ms. Martinez - [renee.martinez@comalisd.org](mailto:renee.martinez@comalisd.org)

**How can I find the best college for my chosen career?** (Game design, Modeling, RN, Acting, Pre-Law, etc) - Stop by the Career Center or e-mail Ms. Martinez or see me! There are numerous programs that research this for you. You can sort the colleges by: rank order within or outside Texas, distance from home, cost etc.

**What is a website so I can search?(6)** -

Collegeboard.com and click on FIND A SCHOOL

**What are the closest Technical & Trade schools and Community Colleges?(3)**

San Antonio Community College (SACC), St. Philips, Palo Alto, Austin CC (ACC) and CTTC (right in New Braunfels) to name a few.

**How do I know what college is presenting in the Career Center and how do I attend?(1)** Stop by anytime to check, listen for announcements and see my handout for Fall 2010. There is a bulletin board inside the center that shows who is coming and you may pull a pass to show your teacher where you are going. After the presentation Ms. Martinez will take the sign-in sheet to the Attendance Office.

**How do I get brochures and catalogues from colleges?(3)** Attending our College and Career Fairs is a great way to pick up information as well as to speak to a representative from this school. Another way is to Google the school of your choice and check out their website. Follow the link to request information. There is usually a fee but it is small and worth it if you want to view their information and print it.

**How can I go on a college visit? (6)** Each junior and senior has 2 days each year that they can visit a college campus without it being counted against you for attendance, exemptions, etc. You must go to the Attendance office and pick up a form and notify Ms. Ortez in advance. Call your chosen school and set up

an appointment. When you are at your visit, have a representative either officially stamp this form OR give you something on letterhead to bring back to Ms. Ortez as official proof of your attendance. Return this form to Ms. Ortez the day you return.

#### 5. What are colleges looking for?(4)

**Rank (4)** - Our rank is determined by the 8.0 point rank scale located on pages 10 and 11 of our 2011 Course Guide. This is an indicator of where you stand in the class of 2012. This indicator allows automatic admission (top 10%-9%) so it is very important if you want to go to A&M and UT. It is **not** a definer of you and you can go to a CC or to another university and do well and apply and still graduate from your 1<sup>st</sup> choice. See handout to see how rank is determined.

**GPA (3)** - Our GPA is **weighted on your transcript on the 100 point scale** UNTIL this year. Your 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade grades include the +5 for Pre-AP and Dual courses and + 10 for AP courses. Starting this year, this will no longer be added into the GPA because **colleges want un-weighted GPA's**. Your 100 point GPA with stay weighted for the 4 years since the first 2 years reflect weighted courses. Your **GPA is un-weighted on your transcript on the 4.0 scale**.

**Level of courses work** - Colleges are looking for your ability to take and succeed in the most rigorous curriculum that CHS has to offer. This helps them determine if you will possibly be successful at their level. If you have taken all regular courses and done very well, this also tells them you can possibly succeed at the next level. It may also show you might have to adjust to the higher rigor at the college level.

**Participation - It** is extremely important that you are a participant in as much as you can be. This includes extracurricular activities, community service, etc. This is why you started on the Activity Sheet in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and get them back to be updated in Cougar Time. That sheet comes directly from the college application form you will be filling in next year. I will give a copy of these to Ms. Martinez next fall so she can help you with the college application process.

**SAT/ACT/ACCUPLACER/THEA** - These college entrance exams are also great indicators of your aptitude. Remember, they are not definers of success.

**TRANSCRIPT IMPROVEMENT (1)** - If you had a rough beginning to CHS your 9<sup>th</sup> grade year, you can show a college your maturity level has increased with a stronger 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade transcript. Sometimes circumstances show up on your transcript within a semester or a year. This can be explained when you write your essays that are also included in your college application. My letter of recommendation or a letter from someone else can also be taken in to consideration.

**How do I get noticed? (4)** - All of the above items go into you getting noticed by the school of your choice! If High School was not the place that you excelled, remember you have a clean slate at the college level and you have the opportunity to graduate with a college degree that reflects who you are! It is never too late to be all you can be!

#### 6. Where do I begin? (16)

- You began the first day of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. Your transcript is your record.
- Take a college entrance exam this year. Take the SAT/ACT for 4 year colleges and universities and/or ACCUPLACER/THEA for community colleges and TECH and TRADE schools. REMEMBER to send your scores to the schools you think you will attend.
- Update your Activity Sheet as you accomplish things. Stay active!
- Begin practicing on your essays and let your teachers help guide you.
- Go on college visits and select your choice or choices of a school(s).
- Complete the APPLYTEXAS @[www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org) next August and submit it online when allowed by the school of your choice. We will help!

- Request and send your HS transcript.
- Pay the registration fee online.
- Wait for the letter of acceptance and further instructions from your school.

## 7. GENERAL QUESTIONS

- **How much does college cost?** (6) This varies from place to place so stop by the Career Center and Ms. Martinez can look this up or show you how.
- **How do I enter the Military?** (2)- You can ask to speak to a recruiter and if you and your parent give permission you may meet with them at school and we can share your transcript with them.
- **How do I apply to an Academy?** (3) - See Ms. Martinez and she will connect you with the admissions representative for instructions.
- **How do I stay motivated?** (2) Hope for a future that provides you with the necessary tools to live in the way you wish to live!
- **How can I find the cheapest way to get a degree?** (3) - Speak with myself and Ms. Martinez.
- **Will my Dual credit transfer to the college of my choice?** (6) That can only be answered by the college. We can tell you what is accepted today BUT the college has the final say!
- **Can my HS tell me everything I need to know about my college?** (Me) NO! It is up to you to speak to the school of your choice via e-mail or phone contact for all specific questions and answers. KEEP A LOG of all contact and keep it together in a safe place. You may need it down the road to graduate at the next level...I did!
- **What is the difference between a HS credit and college hours?** (3) - At the HS level, you can earn .5 credit per semester per course. By the end of the year you can earn 1.0 credit for this same course if you pass. In college, they operate on the semester as well but for each successful semester you earn 3 hours or 4 hours if it is a lab course. Each semester at the college level stands alone. Example- At CHS you need 26 credits to graduate. At a college you will need approximately 120 or so hours to graduate.
- **What is an Associate's degree?** - This is a 2 year degree.
- **What is a Bachelor's degree?** - This is a 4 year degree.
- **What is a Master's degree?** - This is additional degree for certification in certain fields. You must finish your Bachelor's degree before you start this usually.

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