



COMPACT for SUCCESS

Newsletter



A partnership between Sweetwater District and San Diego State University providing a guarantee of admission upon completion of the following benchmarks:

- *Maintain Residency in SUHSD Grades 9-12*
- *Achieve a 3.0 CSU GPA or Greater*
- *Complete College Entrance Requirements (a-g courses)*
- *Take SAT Reasoning or ACT College Admission Exam*
- *Satisfy CSU Placement Exams:
ELM - Entry Level Math
EPT - English Placement Test*

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 11th Grade. Through this newsletter, we enthusiastically inform you that our partnership with San Diego State University remains solid. We have established many activities which inform, motivate and prepare students for college admission and life as adults. We hope to provide you with useful information about academic resources and activities. You will be the best “coach” your child can have as you become familiar with all the requirements toward graduation and college preparatory coursework.

The partnership enables students to gain admission to San Diego State University upon completion of all benchmarks. We encourage parents and students to participate in **Compact** activities to carefully monitor a student’s progress along the way. Strive to earn A’s and B’s in all academic subjects! It is vital that students place themselves at the highest competitive level possible and this starts with a strong grade point average (GPA). Strive to achieve a 3.65 or higher GPA.

Mayra Gutierrez, Director SUHSD

Lou Murillo, Director SDSU

Beginning the College Search

District College Fair

Hosted by Eastlake High School

Thursday, September 16

5 - 8 p.m.

It is important to begin identifying which colleges you are interested in attending. It is also important to identify the selection factors the colleges will use to evaluate you. The goal is to find a match! Position yourself to have multiple opportunities that are solid choices and options. The district College Fair is scheduled for Thursday, September 16. This is a great opportunity to meet with college representatives from throughout the state--approximately 40 colleges usually participate. A variety of workshops will also be provided:

- Selecting a career choice that is right for you
- Studying in a different country for a semester
- How to pay for college
- How to apply for scholarships
- College boot camp
- College residential programs
- Transferring from 2-year colleges to 4 year colleges

We highly recommend you consider all college systems, both public and private, and begin building a list of 15-20 possible options. Keep working with this list until you narrow it to 5-7 options at the start of your senior year. Visit colleges when possible.

Factors Colleges use to Evaluate Students

Colleges evaluate students differently--some use formulas, others use a “holistic” approach, some may use a hybrid approach, and a few may even hold interviews. You are able to see a college’s selection criteria by reviewing their website. Look for the profile of the last class admitted; this is valuable information as you assess your opportunity to be admitted.

Formula Colleges - CSU
GPA
SAT/ACT Scores

Holistic Approach - UC or Private

- #a-g Courses
- #AP Courses
- SAT/ACT Scores
- Community Service Hours
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Work Experience
- Written Essay
- Personal Hardships
- School Context

An Evening with UC San Diego

Tuesday, February 15, 2011
6:00 p.m.
Location TBD

This event is open to 10th and 11th graders interested in learning about UC San Diego and the UC system as a whole: requirements, opportunities and valuable experiences to be gained by attending a UC campus. Staff and alumni from UC San Diego provide a wonderful presentation for parents and students.



Free SAT/ACT Workshops - register www.sandiegocalsoap.com

In the Spring of the 11th grade, students should begin taking the SAT or ACT college entrance exams. The district offers the following workshops for 11th grade students to raise test awareness, increase test taking skills and help students strategize to score their very best.

The first two sessions SAT/ACT Differences & Essay are identical workshops providing an overview of how the tests are structured and how they differ. Students have the option of taking either test or taking both, so its important to be knowledgeable and choose wisely which test suits them best.

The additional workshops ACT Intensive and SAT Intensive focus on strategies specifically for each respective test. Once students have decided which test they will be taking, it is recommended they attend one of these additional intensive workshop, if not the two.

Date	Workshop
Thurs. Jan.20 6-8 p.m.	SAT/ACT Differences & Essay
Sat. Jan. 22 9-12 noon	SAT/ACT Differences & Essay
Sat. Jan. 29 9-12 noon	ACT Intensive
Sat. Feb. 5 9-12 noon	SAT Intensive

SAT Test Dates
March 12 * May 7 * June 4
www.collegeboard.com to register
 (Deadline is 4 weeks before test)

ACT Test Dates
Feb. 12 * April 9 * June 11
www.act.org
 (Deadline is 4 weeks before test)

11th Grade Assemblies



In the spring, 11th grade students who have reached a 2.75 CSU GPA, are on track toward completing "a-g" requirements and have attended schools within the SUHSD since the 9th grade are invited to participate in a recognition assembly acknowledging their accomplishments and progress.

Each student receives a certificate with an offer of admission to SDSU.

The college application process starts the spring of the 11th grade. The assemblies provide key information which outline the necessary steps to begin the college application process and opportunities to demonstrate test proficiency early. An invitation is mailed home to students being acknowledged.

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Post Secondary Initiatives - Compact for Success
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COMPACT for SUCCESS



Juniors - Tasks to do	✓
Check your classes on your 4-year plan and modify as needed	
Check your CSU GPA and develop a plan to increase your GPA with this year's courses	
Consider taking an Honor or AP Class	
Add to your college/career portfolio any community service, leadership, or activities	
Sign up for SAT/ACT Exams in the spring - Make sure you attend the prep sessions	

Build your CSU GPA

Your CSU GPA is determined by the a-g courses you take during 10th and 11th grade. This is your last year to increase your GPA. Try your best, the higher the GPA the more college opportunities you will have.

Calculating Your Students Grade Point Average (GPA)

A	B	C	D	F
4	3	2	1	0

AP/IBHonor Courses add extra point if grade C or higher. Remove non-academic classes. Add all points and divide by the number of courses taken. Strive to achieve a 3.65 GPA or higher.

