



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 - Specifically During High school*
- *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,

It is our mission to prepare all students for college and the world of work. The younger the students are when we expect this of them the better. Through our partnership with San Diego State University, we have established many activities which inform, motivate and prepare students for college admission and life as adults. In this newsletter we hope you find useful information about the academic resources and related support available at your child's school. You will be the best "coach" your child can have as you become familiar with all the requirements of the middle school.

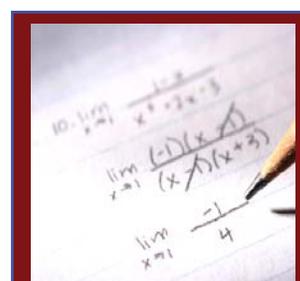
The partnership enables students to gain admission to San Diego State University upon completion of all benchmarks. We encourage parents and students to participate in **Compact** activities to carefully monitor a student's progress along the way. Strive to earn A's and B's in all academic subjects! Middle school is an important stage of a student's academic development. It sets the foundation for success in high school. This is the time to foster academic habits such as organizational skills, time management, study skills, when to seek tutorial support and test-taking skills. Focus on building your abilities, especially in math and English.

Mayra Gutierrez, SUHSD Director

Lou Murillo, SDSU Director

The best way to prepare for high school and college is to ensure that students are taking challenging courses. Students can begin their college entrance requirements while in middle school. Two subject areas are allowed to be started in middle school, math and foreign language. Students are recommended to take algebra in the 8th grade, some may be ready for geometry if they started Algebra in the 7th grade. Foreign language courses also provide an opportunity for students to get an early start toward completing college entrance requirements. Both of these subjects allow students to enter high school at higher level work while in high school through the district's Advanced Placement program.

When students achieve strong grades, they are recommended to enter accelerated subjects in core classes such as English, history, mathematics and science. These courses cover topics with more depth and help to build students' critical thinking skills. Keep in touch with teachers and guidance counselors. Remember that your child, the counselor, teachers and you are all on the same team and have the same goal for your child. Together you can consider a schedule that has rigor for your child.



Classes to take in the 8th grade to get a jump start

**Algebra
Foreign Language**



HACU
HISPANIC
ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGES &
UNIVERSITIES

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities -- HACU Selects Sweetwater 8th Grade Students to Participate in Youth Leadership Conference Friday, September 17, 2010

Twenty-five 8th grade students from each Sweetwater District middle school will have the opportunity to participate in HACU's leadership conference. A day filled with leadership training, motivational speakers and fun activities. The event will be hosted by SDSU. Students will be nominated by school personnel to be part of this important activity.

Letters of invitation will be issued to students in August.

Calculating Your Student's Grade Point Average (GPA)

Start the practice of calculating the college grade point average as a precursor for high school:

| A | B | C | D | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

Remove non-academic classes. Add all points and divide by the number of courses taken. Strive to achieve a 3.65 GPA or higher.

SDSU Advisors



Special SDSU College Advisors serve as mentors for 7th and 8th grade students motivating and providing information regarding college requirements, tutorial support and college experiences. Advisors share similar backgrounds as our students--they help our students see that college can become a reality. We encourage you to get acquainted with your school's SDSU Advisor.

Monitoring Your Students' Progress

Each student's personality differs, some students are organized while others may struggle with time management and organization skills - - these factors often have a direct effect upon a student's grade.

If you wish to monitor your student a bit closer, you can request for your student to be placed on weekly or bi-weekly progress reports. These provide up-to-date status reports on assignments.

To arrange for these, simply contact your counseling department.

AVID - A System of Support

AVID targets students in the academic middle — B, C, and even D students — who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These are typically students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential, are the first in their families to attend college, or maybe underrepresented students.

AVID places these students on the college track by providing them with acceleration instead of remediation. The elective AVID class is driven by the **WICR** method, which stands for **w**riting, **i**nquiry, **c**ollaboration, and **r**eading and provides students the opportunity to learn organizational and study skills, work on developing their critical thinking and ability to ask probing questions, get academic help from peers and college tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable. Students self-images improve as they become academically successful leaders and role models for other students. Overall, the AVID program has a proven track record in bringing out the best in students.



COMPACT
for
SUCCESS



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