THE SPLINTER
Redwood High School
SENIOR NEWSLETTER   SEPTEMBER 2018

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS
Apply to a variety of colleges including some "reach", "match" and "safety" schools. Safety schools are ones where you will be happy to attend and can afford, even if enough financial aid is not provided. Your list should ideally be between 5 and 10 colleges. Please use your high school transcript when completing all college applications, don't try to do this from memory! Mistakes can cause problems and unnecessary stress.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA- Nine Undergraduate campuses
Students will apply to any or all of the nine UC campuses online. Students will create a user name and password to access the application. The application and Personal Insight Questions will be submitted at the same time to each of the campuses indicated at the beginning of the application. Students have eight insight questions to choose from and must respond to four. Each response is limited to a maximum of 350 words. For more information on Personal Insight Questions go to: http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/personal-questions/freshman/index.html
The UC application opens on August 1, 2018 and must be submitted between November 1 and November 30, 2018. The cost to submit an application to **each campus** is $70.00. The application is available at: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply
Some tips for the UC Application:
1. Art classes- Be sure to select the appropriate combination of art sections, ie; Art Exploration/Drawing & Painting, Art Exploration/Ceramics, Art Exploration/Photography. You will need to select the same course combination especially if you have taken them in different grade levels.
2. Science classes- In the section "Academic History Comments" we recommend you include the following statement to clarify the sequence of science classes in the Tam District.
   The Tamalpais Union High School District requires every student to enroll in and pass Integrated Science 1-4. It is a mandatory two year program for all entering freshmen and the completion of, or concurrent enrollment in the 2nd year is a prerequisite to all other science courses offered.

COMMON APPLICATION- Apply to over 700 colleges using one application.
Students can apply to any of the participating colleges utilizing the Common Application. Students will create an account and password. Students will need to add colleges to "My Colleges" list. Be sure to understand each of the schools' specific requirements (they will vary school to school.) The Common Application is available at: www.commonapp.org and deadlines to apply are different for each school.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Dates of college representative visits to Redwood and scholarship opportunities are posted in Naviance, as well as on the Announcements page and daily Twig.
Tutoring lists and college statistics for Redwood graduates can be accessed via the Resources link, College & Career Center.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY- 23 Undergraduate campuses
Students will apply to any of the CSU campuses online. Students will create a user name and password to access the application. The CSU application opens October 1, 2018 and must be submitted by November 30, 2018. The cost to submit an application to each campus is $55.00. The application is available at: calstate.edu/apply
Tips for the CSU Application:
1. Art classes- Be sure to select the appropriate combination of art sections, i.e.; Art Exploration/Drawing & Painting, Art Exploration/Ceramics, Art Exploration/Photography. You will need to select the same course combination especially if you have taken them in different grade levels.

OUT OF STATE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Many out of state public schools have their own online application. Go to the individual schools' website to locate the application link. Students will create a user name and password. Applications open on various dates and each school has its own deadline.

Application workshops will be held weekly starting Thursday, 9/5 during SMART periods. Students need to obtain a SMART pass from the College & Career Center. Redwood counselors and the College & Career Specialist will be available to help with the completion of any applications, help creating/refining the college list, and to review essays and personal insight questions.

ESSAYS - Have a good time with writing your essay (personal statement.) This is an opportunity for you to let a college know about YOU. Be sure to answer the "prompt" you have selected. Have a teacher or your counselor or the college & career specialist look it over for completeness.

TRANSCRIPTS
Some schools require transcripts at the time you submit your application. Forms to request transcripts can be picked up in the Counseling Office. Students need to provide an envelope addressed to colleges not on the common application.
UC's and CSU's do not require transcripts at the time of submission (but check your portals and emails for subsequent requests.)

COALITION FOR ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, AND SUCCESS – Approximately 52 colleges/universities use this application, including UW. The Coalition Application is a technology platform of online tools to assist in the experience of applying to college**.** Coalition members believe that students should be empowered at every step in the application process- including choosing which application best suits their needs. Some Coalition members will exclusively use the Coalition App (University of Washington), while many other Coalition members will accept applications from a number of sources. Admissions offices do not provide preferential treatment to applicants based on which of their approved technological platforms they decide to use to create and submit their application. More information is available at: www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org

SHOULD YOU ATTEND A COMMUNITY COLLEGE?

The California Community Colleges system consists of over 100 colleges, with a large number of additional campus centers and classrooms throughout the state. The colleges are spread over a wide range of geography, from mountains to coasts, and rural regions to big cities. Each college offers a diverse array of educational programs, with specializations that reflect the unique character of the local region.

A broad range of student goals can be met by the California Community Colleges, from personal growth to professional training, from associate degree to university transfer. There are many student services to help you choose your path and stay on it, including academic counseling, financial aid, tutoring, child care, and much more.

Most of the colleges also offer alternative modes of taking classes, such as online courses, "distance education" by radio and video, off-campus classes in facilities like high schools and shopping malls, and some even offer opportunities to study abroad in another country. Costs are very low compared to other higher-education options, and admission is open to all who can benefit**.**

For a complete list of California Community Colleges visit: www.cccco.edu

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNSELORS AND TEACHERS
Students do not need to submit recommendations from counselors and teachers unless the college or university requires them. **The UC and CSU systems DO NOT require letters of recommendation**. However, you may be asked by a college for additional information, so it is vital to check your college account (portal) and emails on a regular basis to make sure deadlines are met. Ask your recommenders what information they want from you. Counselors require students to complete the Letter of Recommendation Questionnaire located at: https://www.tamdistrict.org/Page/11686 The forms need to be **completed 20 school days before the first application deadline** to write a comprehensive letter of recommendation.
Early Application/Early Decision schools that have a November 1st deadline need to have forms turned in by Sept. 30th. For other application deadlines in November or December, requests need to be made by October 14th. For any recommendations due in January or later, you should put in your request by November 15th. For schools not on the Common Application students must provide business-sized, addressed envelopes with postage (one forever stamp) for teachers, (two forever stamps) for counselors.
IMPORTANT: Follow up with a thank you note to those who have written your recommendations!

E MAIL ADDRESSES

For your college applications we recommend creating a dedicated E-Mail address. Because so much communication occurs via e-mail from colleges, we strongly recommend you set up a dedicated e-mail and provide that e-mail address to colleges, ACT/SAT, FAFSA, and any other college-related organization. You MUST also **check your e-mail account** frequently; if you miss a time-sensitive deadline sent from a college via e-mail, it likely will affect your application status. Also, the e-mail address should be one that easily identifies you (i.e. first name.last name@gmail.com.)

SAT & ACT Scores- Scores must be reported to colleges directly from the testing agency, and it is your responsibility to send them to the colleges. Test score policies vary by college and do change. Check the policy at each college if they accept self-reported scores or require scores to be sent. For the UC application, have your SAT/ACT scores sent to one campus (they will share.) For CSU campuses send SAT scores to code 3594 (scores will be shared by all campuses). If you have listed a CSU campus as an ACT score report recipient, your scores will automatically be sent to all campuses to which you are applying.

Students can select up to four colleges to send SAT scores to at the time of registration. These four score reports are included in the basic registration fee. **Students have up to the ninth day following their test date to make changes to their score report recipients.**

2018 SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests Calendar- Redwood School Code- 051361

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline- Online
October 6, 2018	September 7, 2018	September 18, 2018
November 3, 2018	October 5, 2018	October 16, 2018
December 1, 2018	November 2, 2018	November 13, 2018

2018 ACT Test Dates – Redwood School Code- 051361

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
October 27, 2018	September 21, 2018	October 5, 2018
December 8, 2018	November 2, 2018	November 16, 2018

PORTALS- Once you have submitted an application to a college you will receive an email and information regarding the creation of a portal. This is the way that most colleges will communicate with students. **Be sure to check portals on a regular basis as there may be deadlines that need to be met.**

NAVIANCE- Naviance is a tool that students can use in their college search or career exploration. Your account user name is your first name.last name and your password is your Redwood ID#. Use the information provided in Naviance to assist in putting together a list of colleges to research and apply. Naviance will provide information about the college, majors to choose from, data from past Redwood students who have applied to various colleges as well as information about careers, trends in various careers and salaries, etc.

FINANCIAL AID FOR SENIORS

FINANCIAL AID - Financial aid is any monies given to a student for the purpose of meeting education expenses.   Types of aid include scholarships, grants, loans and work study**.** Families must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid **(FAFSA)** or Dream Act application to initiate the financial aid process. The online application period is from October 1, 2018 to March 2, 2019 and is located at www.fafsa.ed.gov or dream.csac.ca.gov/application. Students need to check with each of the schools they're applying to in order to verify financial aid deadlines and the required forms to be completed. **We will be providing a Financial Aid Workshop on October 4, 2018 at 6:30pm in the small gym.**

CSS PROFILE - Used by almost 300 schools, it requires student and parents to complete in order to be eligible for some types of aid. Schools will use the profile to determine institutional aid. The CSS Profile opens October 1, 2018 and is located at www.student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile Deadlines to submit the CSS Profile vary by college/university. The cost to submit the profile is $25 for the first college and $16 for each additional school.

CAL GRANT- High School Entitlement Awards are for high school seniors planning to attend a 2 or 4 year California Institution (public or private). Awards are based on **3.0 unweighted minimum** high school GPA on grades earned in 10th & 11th as well as income reported on the FAFSA. **The Tamalpais Union High School District submits the GPA's electronically on behalf of all our seniors.** For more information on Cal Grant go to: www.csac.ca.gov

SCHOLARSHIPS - Scholarships are "free" money**.** There are a number of scholarships available to students throughout the course of high school. Scholarships are based on a number of different criteria as established by the organization providing the funds. Criteria can include (but not be limited to): community service, merit or talent. Scholarships can be found on Naviance as well as a variety of free websites, including www.fastweb.com, www.finaid.org, ww.unigo.com, www.chegg.com to name a few.

FINANCIAL AID PACKAGES - Once colleges receive the information provided on the FAFSA, CSS Profile and if necessary institutional forms, they will notify families of their financial aid award. Awards usually consist of grant money, work study and/or loans.

The Redwood Counseling Department will be hosting Senior Parent Night on September 27th at 6:30 pm in the Redwood Small Gym. This event is intended for parents of seniors.

The College & Career Center, along with the Counseling Department is offering a Financial Aid evening on October 4th at 6:30 pm in the Small Gym. Current information on grants and the completion of the FAFSA and California Dream Act Application will be provided. This event is intended for Senior Students and Parents (and those planning ahead are also welcome)

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

U.C. & Common Application available	August 1, 2018
Senior Parent Night	September 27, 2018 - 6:30 pm (small gym)
Request recommendations from teacher/counselor for schools with 11/1 deadline	October 1, 2018
CSS Profile (Financial aid form for many private colleges)	October 1, 2018
Begin FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application	October 1, 2018
CSU Application available	October 1, 2018
CSU Application submission	October 1 to November 30, 2018
Financial Aid Information Evening	October 4, 2018 – 6:30 pm (small gym)
Request recommendation from teacher/counselor for schools 11/2 to 12/31 deadlines	October 15, 2018
UC Application submission	November 1 to November 30, 2018
FAFSA / Dream Act Application Deadline for submission for California Schools	March 2, 2019
Last day to submit Statement of Intent to Enroll	May 1, 2019

The College & Career Center is open daily from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. Help is available for students before school, during lunch, after school and during SMART to assist with the application process.