

The Splinter

JUNIOR EDITION

A Publication of the Redwood High School Counseling Department
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ATTENTION JUNIORS AND PARENTS!

COLLEGE FIT AND PLANNING NIGHT FOR JUNIORS AND THEIR PARENTS will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the Small Gym. This event marks the “kick off” of the college search and application process for juniors and their parents. Counselors will cover resources for the college search process along with ideas to focus on as students and families explore post high school opportunities.

JUNIOR TIMELINE

September

Representatives from approximately 150 different colleges and universities will be in the College & Career Center (Room 111) from September through November. Juniors are encouraged to attend these presentations. Look for listings by the Library, Counseling Office (Room 103) and College & Career Center. They are also posted on the Redwood website, Resource Tab, College and Career Center under College Visits, as well as listed in Naviance, and the daily Twig. All college visits are scheduled before school or during lunch.

October

We will be providing a **Financial Aid Information Night** on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 6:30 in the Small Gym. Financial aid refers to any monies given to a student for the purpose of meeting educational expenses and includes scholarships, grants, loans and work study. For our junior families, this provides a framework for understanding how financial aid programs may help your student when they apply to schools as a senior.

November

College Fit and Planning Night, Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 6:30 pm, Small Gym (see above).

December

An informational night on **College Admission Testing** will be held in the small gym on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 6:30. Learn how testing plays a part in the college admissions process.

Mock testing opportunities are offered for students planning to take the SAT and/or ACT. These practice opportunities will be in both September and January. Students will be in a simulated test setting where they will be timed and monitored. Interested students must sign-up, in advance, for these practice diagnostic tests. ***There will be a \$15 non-refundable donation to the Redwood High School Foundation-Scholarship Committee at the time of sign-up. Checks should be made out to Redwood High School Foundation.***

January

Redwood High School counselors will meet with juniors in their U.S. History classes to discuss senior scheduling and items to be completed by the students in Naviance prior to scheduling their junior conference.

Career Conversations begin in January. Students are encouraged to attend lunchtime presentations in the College & Career Center to learn about a variety of different careers.

February

Gap Year Fair, Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at Sir Francis Drake High School, 6-8:30 pm. Forty five exhibitors share information on their programs and answer questions for parents and students. The event begins with a presentation where parents and students learn what a gap year is, the ins and outs, how to look for companies, how colleges view them and any other questions that may come up.

April/May

The **WACAC College Fair** will be held at Dominican University on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 6:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with over 150 College Representatives in one location. More information will be sent via email in the spring.

In May, Counselors and the College & Career Specialist will offer **SMART Period Workshops** specifically for juniors, to help students get a head start on the college application process.

Junior Conference

Beginning February 24, 2020, counselors will be holding individual junior conferences to discuss post high school/college planning. These meetings held during the school day are for **students only**. Counselors will be contacting each student via email with a pre-arranged appointment time.

Information covered includes:

1. Double check graduation requirements and college entrance requirements including checking admission requirements for private and out-of-state colleges.
2. Explore college/career goals.
3. Investigate college possibilities and develop the resources for further exploration.
4. Review SAT and ACT testing dates.
5. Provide the "College Application Guide."

College Entrance Examinations

Colleges that require scores will accept either the ACT or the SAT test scores. The tests vary in format, and some students elect to take a practice version of each to see which test is better for them. Most four year institutions require a college entrance exam score, and will accept either the SAT or ACT interchangeably, and some schools may recommend or require additional subject level testing. Some other colleges and universities may have a test optional or test flexible option, and each school will indicate that in their admissions policies.

For students entering the UC system, each applicant must submit scores on an approved core test of mathematics, critical reading and writing.

This requirement may be met by taking either of the following:

- ◆ the ACT Assessment with Writing
- ◆ the SAT Reasoning Test with Writing

While SAT Subject Tests are not required, some UC campuses recommend that freshman applicants interested in competitive majors take the tests to demonstrate subject proficiency.

www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements/examination-requirement/SAT-subject-tests/index.html

CSU's do not require the SAT Subject Tests or the essay, but do require SAT Reasoning or ACT Test.

If subject tests are required for the colleges to which you are applying, we recommend taking SAT Subject Tests in May or June of your junior year, nearing the completion of the subject area. **It is your responsibility to know which tests may be required by the schools to which you are applying.**

2020 SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests Calendar- Redwood School Code- 051-361

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline- Online
March 14, 2020	February 14, 2020	March 3, 2020
May 2, 2020	April 3, 2020	April 21, 2020
June 6, 2020	May 8, 2020	May 27, 2020

2020 ACT Test Dates – Redwood School Code- 051-361

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
February 8, 2020	January 10, 2020	January 17, 2020
April 4, 2020	February 28, 2020	March 13, 2020
June 13, 2020	May 8, 2020	May 22, 2020
July 18, 2020	June 19, 2020	June 26, 2020

For additional test dates, please visit www.collegeboard.org and www.act.org

Visiting College Campuses

Your junior year is a great time to begin visiting college campuses and there is no better time to do this than during the February school break or during the spring break in April. During these times most colleges are in session. This gives you an opportunity to see the college in action, to see who goes there, visit classes and check out the campus community.

You can also make up your own itinerary. Select several campuses you are considering and map out a plan to visit public as well as private colleges in a specific geographic area. This is a great opportunity to take a road trip with your parents or a friend and experience different colleges.

If you are unable to schedule campus visits during the February or spring breaks, remember you can **pre-arrange** up to three days of warranted absences per school year for college visitations. Warranted Absence forms are available in the Attendance Office, Room 105.

Check each college website or call the admissions office to get the times of the tours and to inquire about classroom and overnight visits. Take notes and photos. In the College & Career Center you will find information and brochures from many colleges both in the United States and abroad.

Opportunities for Juniors

Internships: Through the **School-to-Career Program**, directed by Greg Davison (415)458-3484, gdavison@tamdistrict.org, students can have the chance to intern at a local business during the fall or spring semester or next summer. Many businesses in Marin provide these opportunities. They include the areas of

architecture and construction, culinary arts, technology and multimedia, medicine and health, journalism, engineering, auto tech, veterinary medicine, business and finance, fine arts, fashion and law. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore a potential area of interest and to get valuable work experience. Applications will be available in January for the spring semester. Students are required to work a minimum of six hours per week for eight weeks.

NCAA Eligibility Center: If you hope to play **sports in college**, you must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Students should register with the Center at the conclusion of their junior year. The Eligibility Center will not process the forms until after they receive the student's 6th semester transcript. For all transcript requests, contact Records Secretary Diana Fernandez. Students should also have their SAT/ACT scores sent to the Clearinghouse. The numerical code is 9999. Students may begin the registration process this spring and familiarize themselves with the NCAA Eligibility Center website, www.eligibilitycenter.org

If you are considering applying to a **FEDERAL MILITARY ACADEMY** like the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, or the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, you must start the process in your JUNIOR year. You must meet rigid scholastic and medical qualifications as well as secure a Congressional nomination.

Want a part time job?

There are many opportunities on the Job Board in room 111! Employers often contact Redwood with job opportunities geared toward high school students. Check regularly for updated jobs options!

SCHOLARSHIPS, COLLEGE SEARCH WEB SITES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Please note that most scholarships are for seniors. However, there are contests that juniors may enter. Many scholarship opportunities are listed on Naviance, or have additional information in the CCC.

One example of a current scholarship:

Profile in Courage Essay Contest: Open to students grades 9-12. Write an original essay of 1,000 words or less that demonstrates an understanding of political courage as described by John F. Kennedy in Profiles in Courage. Apply online at:
<https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/education/profile-in-courage-essay-contest/eligibility-and-requirements>
Deadline: 1/17/20

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service hours can be an important aspect of a college admission review. There are many opportunities to become involved; the College & Career Center keeps a community service board for review. Opportunities are also posted daily on the TWIG with the College & Career Center Announcements on the Redwood website under Publications.

COLLEGE SEARCH

Now is the time to start thinking about different options. Listed below are some websites that you can use to begin your college search.

Naviance

www.redwood.org –Resource Tab

College Board Online

www.collegeboard.org

California State University

www2.calstate.edu/apply

California Colleges

www.californiacolleges.edu

University of California System

www.universityofcalifornia.edu

California Independent Colleges/Universities

<https://www.aiccu.edu/>

Colleges that Change Lives (CCTL)

<https://ctcl.org/>