Class of 2021:
Junior College Night

NICOLE MIRAMONTES, HTLA DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING
Welcome and Introductions!

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Volunteer College Counselors
The parent role in the process:

What can YOU do to help support your student?

- Talk about college at home
  - Decisions
  - Obstacles
  - Fears
  - Struggles
  - Excitement
  - Transition

- Frequently check on academic progress (PowerSchool/Moodle)

- Encourage exploration of colleges and majors (Naviance) (college tours)

- Give them responsibility in the process
  - Assist with issues/conflict, but allow students to solve on their own.
  - Pay attention, stay involved
  - After all, THEY are the ones going to college 😊
HTLA prepares students to apply to a four-year college/university:

- A-G (California) Eligibility
  - All of HTLA’s core academic classes are A-G approved
- HTLA graduation requirements EXCEED A-G requirements
  - 4 years of Math
  - 4 years of Science
  - 4 years of History
  - 4 Years of English
- No grades below a “C.” Colleges do not accept D’s and F’S . . . So HTLA does not either!
- We want every student to be eligible to apply to college – 2.0+ GPA at the end of JUNIOR year.
What are colleges looking for?

- GPA/Grades: academic and electives
- Test Scores – SAT/ACT
- Personal essay
- Extracurricular activities (in school and within community) clubs, sports, community service/volunteer work, college courses, etc.
- Counselor/Teacher Letter of Recommendation
  - Private colleges
- The school you came from
  - Students are evaluated on the “context” of their high school (School profile)
- Demonstrated Interest / State of Residence
California Master Plan

- Three Tiers – CA Systems of Higher Education:
  - **The University of California (UC)**
    - 3.0 or higher GPA (much higher often)
    - SAT or ACT
    - Personal Insight Questions
  - **The California State University (CSU)**
    - 2.0 or higher GPA (much higher often)
    - SAT or ACT
  - **Community Colleges**
    - All students with a high school diploma are eligible to attend a community college.
Private and Out of State Colleges and Universities

- GREAT options for our students
- Private DOES NOT = more expensive
- Typically requires a 3.0 GPA or higher (varies)
- SAT/ACT
- Personal Statement/Essay
- Letters of Recommendation
- Allow students to EXPLORE all of their options
How does HTLA prepare juniors to begin the college planning and application process?
Classroom Check-ins and College Tours

- Visit to 11th grade English classes to hand out transcripts and do college planning activity (October 1st and 2nd)
- PSAT: Wednesday, October 16th
- Method Test Prep
  - FREE online SAT/ACT Test Prep and SAT/ACT Practice Tests
- 2 college tours during juniors year
  - Northern California College Tour: October 2019 ($)
    - Spaces still available!
  - 11th grade college tour to 2 local colleges/universities (FREE)
    - More information to come! Spring 2020
Small Group Meetings: December and January

- Small groups broken up by last name meet during X-Block
- Information includes:
  - Transcript review
  - CA systems of higher education
  - Eligibility and requirements
  - College application process
  - SAT/ACT – differences/how to sign up/prep
  - Summer plans
  - How to effectively research colleges
  - Junior Survey Assignment!!! (Due before January small group meeting)
Individual College Planning Meetings

- Begin in late February
- Scheduled throughout the semester
- Parents, guardians, older siblings, grandparents – who ever is helping with the college planning process is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to attend.

Discuss:
- Testing Plan
- GPA/Eligibility
- College Major
- College List
- Fee waivers

This information is VERY PERSONAL to each student
Apply to work with a Volunteer College Counselor

- Application available January 2020
- Student must apply to at least ONE CSU and ONE Private College
- Students will participate in an interview to be selected for a college group.
- Groups meet EVERY MONDAY during X-Block at HTLA
- Benefits:
  - Additional support during college planning process
  - Dedicated time every week
  - One-on-One college essay and application help
SAT/ACT

- PSAT: October 16th during the school day
- Method Test Prep (FREE)
  - SAT/ACT Prep
  - Practice SAT/ACT Tests
- Khan Academy (FREE)
  - CollegeBoard
  - SAT Prep
- All juniors are recommended to:
  - Take the SAT/ACT in May/June of spring semester of junior year
  - Choose either SAT or ACT and study for it really well
  - Take it twice!
    - Spring semester of junior year
    - Summer/Fall semester of senior year
Summer Plans

- Summer plans are made in the winter!
  - Summer program workshops in February
- DO SOMETHING!
  - Participate, learn, volunteer, get a job, internship, babysit, etc.
- Search and apply for scholarships
  - Naviance
  - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com); [www.goingmerry.com](http://www.goingmerry.com); [www.collegexpress.com](http://www.collegexpress.com)
  - “do nothing” scholarships
- Take community college courses
  - Take courses on college campuses
- Visit colleges
- Continue to research colleges
- Update your resume
Looking ahead to senior year...

- Students do not actually APPLY to college until the fall semester of their senior year.
  - UC/CSU application due November 30th
- FAFSA: FREE Application for Federal Student Aid
  - October 1st – March 2nd
  - Fall semester senior year
- Class and individual check-ins with seniors
- Workshops
  - Financial Aid
  - College Applications
  - Essays
- 12th Grade College Night and 12th Grade Financial Aid Night
Help is here… Just ask!

- We are all here to help you along in this process over the coming months.

- Contact us:
  - Nicole Miramontes – Director of College Counseling
    - Ms.miramontes@ht-la.org  818-609-2686
  - Nikki Bender – School Counselor
    - Ms.bender@ht-la.org  818-609-2682
  - College Counseling Assistants
Questions?