

Diamond Bar High School

SENIOR BULLETIN #1

Scholarship and College Information September 2019

UC/CSU and Financial Aid

- **UC and CSU Application Workshops** will take place on Wednesday, September 25th. We will offer both the CSU and UC workshops on this date beginning at 6:00 pm in the DBHS Theater (UC) and the Golden Horseshoe (CSU). You can go to one workshop at 6:00, then switch to the next workshop during the second session beginning at 7:15. Those who attend both workshops will be done well before 8:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to hear from a representative from each system and ask questions about the application process.
- **The Financial Aid Workshop** will take place on Tuesday, September 17th in the Theater at 6:30 pm. This informative evening will help you understand how the financial aid process works and how you're going to pay for school so you and your folks should plan on attending. I just read that the average cost of tuition in public universities has gone up 213% over the past 30 years – so terrible! This one evening will answer most of your financial aid questions, and it's free!
- **Additional Financial Aid Workshops** are sponsored by the California Student Aid Commission's Cash for College program. You will receive help in completing the FAFSA and learn more about the financial aid process. For more information, go to www.cash4college.csac.ca.gov/. Workshops take place from October through June, but sign up quickly – these workshops do fill up! Mt. SAC will host one on Saturday, October 12th and you can get more information at <http://www.mtsac.edu/financialaid/cashfair.html>.
- **Money magazine's 2019-20 Best Colleges list** just came out, speaking of saving money for college. Their list focuses on finding the schools that "successfully combine quality and affordability," and features 10 California schools in the Top 25, including our very own Cal State Fullerton!

- **Comprehensive Review** – The CSU bases their admissions decisions on your GPA and test scores only, but the UC uses “Comprehensive Review” in deciding who to admit. This means you really need to think about all of your high school experiences, both here and off-campus, and include as much as possible in your UC application. Comprehensive Review is very similar to the way many private universities evaluate applications as well. Below are the factors they consider:

- Academic GPA
- SAT/ACT scores
- Number of courses taken beyond the minimum requirements
- Number of honors/AP/IB courses taken
- Eligibility in Local Context (being in the top 9% of your class)
- The quality of classes taken in senior year
- The level of your academic classes in relation to what is offered here
- Outstanding performance in a specific subject area
- Outstanding work in one or more special projects
- A marked improvement in academic performance
- Special talents and achievements in a particular field
- Completion of special projects within the school or community
- Academic accomplishments in light of applicant’s life experiences
- Location of the applicant’s school

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- **The Common Application** – Almost 900 private schools now use the Common Application. Go to www.commonapp.org to see if the schools you’re applying to are Common Application members and to familiarize yourself with their application process.
- **Look at each individual school’s requirements** to make sure you don’t miss something. For example, USC’s deadline for applications for regular consideration is January 15th, BUT their deadline for applications for anyone who wants to be considered for merit scholarships is December 1st. If you wait until January, you’re basically telling them you don’t want them to offer you any help paying for college, and who would say that?
- **Letters of recommendation** – If you’re applying to a private college or university, you probably need letters of recommendation from your GLC and two academic teachers. The first step is to carefully read through the “**Private Universities Power Point**” located on bottom of the Class of 2020 GLC page - https://dbhs.wvusd.k12.ca.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=189640&type

[=d&pREC_ID=393314](#). The second step is to download the “**Senior Profile 1**” packet (located in the same part of www.dbhs.org). This packet allows you to tell the people writing letters for you all about yourself and the accomplishments and experiences you’ve had both on and off campus – spend time working on this so your GLC and teachers can write the best possible letter for you. After reading all instructions and then following all directions, deliver your Senior Profile Packet directly to your GLC and teachers (you must hand it to them directly). You should list all schools you are applying to and the deadlines for those schools on the cover page, but do NOT put UC’s or CSU’s on this list – UC’s and CSU’s don’t need letters of recommendation. **The Early Decision/Early Action deadline is September 5th, 3:00 pm, and the absolute deadline to turn in a letter of recommendation request is September 26th, 3:00 pm** but you are strongly encouraged to deliver them sooner.

- **Online application via www.commonapp.org** – You and your GLC will be required to submit all Common Application papers online. To notify your GLC that you would like him or her to complete his or her part (Secondary Report) online, you need to invite him or her through the Common Application. Once you complete your part of the application, including senior classes for both semesters, you are ready to send the email notification to your GLC. You will need their correct email addresses:

mnatividad@wvusd.k12.ca.us or gauten@wvusd.k12.ca.us
or jsalas@wvusd.k12.ca.us

SAT/ACT

- **Time to take those tests.** You must have a score for either the SAT or the ACT with writing for all CSU’s, UC’s, and private schools. If you haven’t taken either test, you only have a few more chances. The deadline to register for the October 5th SAT is **September 6th** and the deadline to register for the October 26th ACT is **September 20th!** Go to www.collegeboard.org or www.act.org to sign up for either test. If you plan to take a December test, the UC wants you to indicate the *planned test date* on your admission application.
- **WARNING: San Diego State, San Jose State, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo** have said in the past that November is the last test they will

- accept, and Cal Poly SLO has indicated they prefer the ACT. If that's what they prefer, that's what you should give them.
- **SAT Subject Tests** are no longer required by the UC, but the UC has said some majors (usually engineering and science) at some campuses may still recommend particular tests and students are still encouraged to send in Subject Test scores to be considered during the comprehensive review process as this extra information can only help. In addition, several private schools still require or encourage Subject Tests, and if they say they'd like to see a certain test, you want to provide it. Look at each school's admission requirements carefully to find this information.

MISCELLANEOUS INFO

- **The District College Fair** will be held at Walnut High School on Thursday, September 12th from 6:30 – 9:00 pm, with workshops (financial aid, reducing anxiety in the college search, standardized testing) beginning at 6:00 pm. This is a good evening to gather information about universities and chat with representatives about their campuses. While this is a great event, you should also be researching potential universities online RIGHT NOW! Some great places to start looking at which schools might be right for you are:
 - www.petersons.com
 - www.unigo.com
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>
- **Parchment is another great research tool!** Parchment is the company you'll use if you ever need to send your official transcript to a school, but don't wait until then to log on and create an account. If you create an account now, you can use their handy "My Admissions Chances" feature. You make a profile with your unweighted and weighted GPA, your test scores, and a few other items, and then for every potential university you plug in, you'll get a rough estimate of your statistical chance of admission. It's not a perfect tool of course, but it sure helps with determining which schools are a reach, a good chance, or a safety. It will also generate a few "College Matches" based on your list and profile. To log in, go to <https://www.parchment.com/u/auth/login>.
- **Military Service Academy Night** is presented by the office of Representative Gil Cisneros on Wednesday, September 4th, 2019 at Glen A. Wilson High School in Hacienda Heights from 6:00-8:00 pm and again on Wednesday, September 18th, 2019 at Troy High School in Fullerton from 6:00-8:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to learn about the U.S.A. military academies and their highly selective admissions process. Looking ahead, all materials for those

- requesting a nomination are due to Representative Cisneros by **Friday, October 25th, 2019 at 5:00 pm**. If you have questions, contact Stephanie Wade at stephanie.wade@mail.house.gov.
- **Colleges visit DBHS all the time!** For a complete schedule, visit the Career Center or look at their calendar - https://dbhs.wvusd.k12.ca.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=58834&type=d&pREC_ID=calendar.
 - **Embrace the college search and application process!** Applying to colleges can be a stressful, anxiety-inducing experience filled with worries about not having done enough in the past or messing up in the present, but it doesn't have to be. Do your best to remember that the ability to apply to universities is an extraordinary privilege, that you've done good, hard work to make this a reality, and that this is really in many ways an exciting adventure, not a chore.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Keep an eye out!** There will always be scholarships listed in the Senior Bulletin, but this should not be your only resource. Ask your parents about scholarships through their jobs and keep an eye out for scholarships within the community. You can also go to www.fastweb.com or www.goingmerry.com for free scholarship searches. There are thousands of scholarships available out there, like this one that awards scholarships to brave souls who manufacture prom clothing out of duct tape - <http://stuckatprom.com/>.
- **QuestBridge College Match Scholarships** – QuestBridge is a national college match program which assists outstanding low-income students in gaining admission and full four-year scholarships to leading colleges such as MIT, Princeton, Stanford and Yale. In 2016, over 1500 Questbridge applicants gained admission to their partner colleges, and over 750 of these students were offered full four-year scholarships – tuition, room & board. For information go to www.questbridge.org. Scholarship varies depending on the school but can include the full cost of tuition and room and board. **Deadline is September 26, 2019.**
- **The Gates Scholarship** – This scholarship is “a highly selective, full scholarship for exceptional, Pell-eligible (low income), minority high school seniors. Applicants must have at least a weighted 3.3 GPA, demonstrated financial need as identified by the FAFSA, and be a USA citizen, national, or permanent resident. Applicants should also have “an outstanding academic record (top 10% of class), demonstrated leadership

- ability, and exceptional personal success skills.” This is a mighty scholarship – it will cover the full cost of attendance (tuition, books, room, board, transportation) that is not covered by any other scholarships. For more information, go to <https://www.thegatesscholarship.org/scholarship>. **Deadline for applications is September 15th, 2019.**
- **Coca Cola Scholars Foundation** – The Coca Cola Company supports over 1400 students with \$3.45 million dollars’ worth of scholarships each year. 150 students are selected each year to receive this \$20,000 scholarship. They are looking for “well-rounded, bright students who not only excel academically, but are also actively involved in their schools. These leaders are passionate and service-oriented, and demonstrate a sustained commitment to bettering their community.” **Applications must be submitted online at <https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/ccsf>. Deadline is October 31st, 2019.**
 - **The Romero Scholarship for Excellence in Spoken Word** – This scholarship is sponsored by a DBHS alumni, that’s right a former Brahma offering his own hard-earned cash to help you! \$500 will be awarded to one senior “for the creation of a poem with themes pertaining to social justice.” To download an application and for FAQ’s, go to <https://www.davidaromero.com/scholarship>. Applications, poems, and letters of recommendation must be emailed to davidaromero@gmail.com by **November 20th, 2019.**
 - **Prudential Spirit of Community Awards** - This award is to recognize students who have demonstrated exceptional citizenship through exemplary, **self-initiated community service/ volunteer work**. Examples might be working with the disabled or with the elderly. The activity must be either self initiated or the individual must demonstrate exceptional leadership in group activities. **Go online to <http://spirit.prudential.com> to submit an application by November 5th, 2019. After you submit, you must tell Mr. Desmond you have entered your name - DBHS can only forward one representative for the state judging and a chance to earn \$1000 and a trip to Washington DC. If you don’t tell us you submitted, you’ll have no chance of being our school nominee.**
 - **Horatio Alger Association Scholarship** – This organization will provide awards ranging from \$6000 - \$25000. Applicants must have household earnings of less than \$55,000, a 2.0 minimum GPA, be involved in extra-curricular and community activities, and “have exhibited determination, integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity.” **Apply online at <https://scholars.horatioalger.org/scholarships/> – application deadline is**

October 25th, 2019, BUT this one also requires GLC certification – notify him or her and apply by October 18th, 2019.

- **US Senate Youth Program** – Are you interested in a chance to win a \$10,000 scholarship? Seniors who plan on pursuing a career in **public service** can apply for the chance to be one of only TWO seniors from California to attend the 2020 United States Senate Youth Program. In order to qualify, you must be currently serving in an elected or appointed leadership capacity in a student government, civic, or educational organization for this school year. You must be in a qualified leadership position and actively representing a constituency in organizations that relate to government, education, public affairs, and/or community service. Examples of this would be: Student Body President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer; Class President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer; Student Council Representative; National Honor Society Officer; Student Representative elected or appointed (appointed by a panel, commission, or board) to a local, district, regional or state-level civic, service and/or educational organization approved by the state selection administrator. If you're interested, go to https://ussenateyouth.org/about_overview/ to learn how to apply. The California deadline is **October 4th, 2019**.