



SENIOR UPDATE

January 2019

Counseling Department:

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Welcome to your last ever semester of high school!

May 31st is going to be here before you know it. Are you ready for what's next?

CREDITS FOR GRADUATION: Remember that you must pass all of your classes this year in order to graduate. If you fail one or more in the first semester we need to look at credit recovery options or an East High referral immediately so that you graduate on time.

SENIOR ACTIVITY POLICY: Remember that the Activities Policy goes into effect this semester for participation in Senior Ball and Banquet, Senior Picnic, and Graduation. Things that could result in you not getting to participate in one of these activities include:

- A failing grade in more than one class at the time of the activity
- 10 or more tardies in one or more classes during the final quarter
- 15 or more absences in any one class during the student's final semester
- A three-day suspension during the student's final semester.
- Two or more suspensions totaling six or more days during the student's senior year.

CLASS CHANGES FOR STUDENTS GOING TO FOUR-YEAR SCHOOLS (CSU/UC/etc): If you have changed your schedule for second semester, you need to notify the admissions office at each of your potential schools about the change. See your counselor if you are not sure how to do this.

FAFSA/Dream Act: The deadline to submit your FAFSA or Dream Act application is **MARCH 2nd**! The FAFSA will pay for two and four-year colleges and universities as well as most tech and certificate programs. Make sure you don't miss out on your free money for education, and see your counselor ASAP if you have any questions.

CAL GRANTS: Completing your FAFSA also submits your application for aid from the California State Aid Commission (CSAC). This includes Cal Grants, the Chafee Grant, and the Middle Class Scholarship. **Every senior should create a CSAC Web Grants account at <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>.** This website is the primary form of communication with CSAC about your awards. It will allow you to track your award progress, find out how much money you are getting, and accept your grants.

UC/CSU/other 4-year school applications: Make sure you read EVERYTHING that your colleges are sending you. By now you should have logged in to each of your potential schools' student portal and started working on the 'to-do' list that you find there. The instructions and links are in one of the first emails the school sent you. If you need help doing this, see your counselor ASAP.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES: Community college applications are open! The deadline to apply to community colleges is not until late summer, but you should do it ASAP so you have time to complete testing and orientation before fall registration opens in April.

TRANSCRIPTS: Official transcripts for college admissions need to be requested from Rebecca Wilkinson in the office. Many schools request a mid-year transcript and a final one after graduation – make sure you are paying attention to all of the emails you get from your colleges so you know if you need to send them a transcript or any other information.

SEAL OF BILITERACY: Are you fluent in more than one language? If you meet certain requirements, you could earn a Seal of Biliteracy on your diploma to let future schools and employers know that you can read, write, and speak a second language. See your counselor now to fill out the application. There is a timed essay (100 words) section of the application that we will do one day during lunch, an oral interview section that will be done one Saturday at HSU in April, and an awards night at HCOE in May.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Scholarships are completely free money that can help cover the cost of tuition, books, room and board, or any other aspect of college or tech/vocational school. Check out the monthly scholarship update for local opportunities, and create profiles on scholarships.com and/or fastweb.com to access a nation-wide database of millions of scholarships. And remember to tell us when you get one so we can honor you for it at Senior Awards Night!

IMPORTANT DATES (some may change):

- 1/7 First Day of Second Semester
- 1/21 No School – MLK Day
- 1/30 Latino Parent Night @FUHS Library
- 2/12 Interview Day
- 2/18 No school all week - Presidents' Week
- 3/27 Latino Parent Night @FUHS Library
- 4/15 No school all week – Spring Break
- 5/2 Change the World Project Showcase
- 5/6 First day of AP Testing - Good luck!
- 5/17 Student Appreciation Day
- 5/22 Senior Awards Night
- 5/23 Senior Ball and Banquet
- 5/24 Senior Picnic
- 5/28 Multicultural Graduation Ceremony
- 5/30 Last Day of School
- 5/31 Senior Breakfast and GRADUATION!
- 6/1 First day of the rest of your life... 😊