

# BESANT HILL SCHOOL

## COLLEGE COUNSELING NEWSLETTER

### NOVEMBER 2009

#### Message from the Counseling Office

With November now upon us, time begins to speed up! The approaching school holidays have students (and faculty!) working under harsh deadlines. Counteract the stress and pressure by staying organized, staying in communication, and remembering to take time for relaxation and respite!

For SENIORS, Early Action and Early Decision deadlines fall within the next few weeks. Be sure to have Brook review your applications before you press the “send” button! Even if you are applying Regular Decision, or to a college with Rolling Admission, imagine how great it would feel to have all of your applications DONE by Thanksgiving break! Just remember, the BHS College Counseling Department deadline for all applications is December 1<sup>st</sup>! This is the only guarantee that your applications will be submitted by Winter Break.

JUNIORS are encouraged to take advantage of the upcoming vacations by initiating some early college research. Looking ahead just a bit, we will be launching the formal college counseling process for Juniors in January, with a Junior College Night and the start of one on one meetings.

SOPHOMORES and FRESHMEN will have an introduction to Naviance and the College Admissions process at a College Night designed just for them on November 18.

This newsletter will be sent once a month and will contain information regarding upcoming dates and events that you need to be aware of. You will find information about test dates and registration; college representative visits; local college fairs and receptions; and other items and articles of interest.

Enjoy these offerings and please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Brook Masters

#### Testing Information

BHS School Code: 052255

SAT		ACT	
<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>	<a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a>		
Date	Registration	Date	Registration
11/7	10/1	12/12	11/6
12/5	10/30		

Be sure to select Thacher or Nordhoff High School as your testing location. If those locations are not available, Ventura High School and Buena High School are the next nearest locations.

Now that your college lists are almost finalized, you should be sending your score reports. For more information on how to do this, see Brook.

Fee waivers for the tests are available.

You may register online at the websites above.

#### News and Events

**Besant Hill School** now has a College Counseling Calendar. This is a shared calendar that will alert you to special visits, test dates, reminders, and important events that relate to the College Counseling World. Be sure to check there for upcoming visits from College Reps! Check your email for the invitational link to subscribe.

A mandatory **Freshman and Sophomore College Night** will be held Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, from 7 to 8:30pm in the Zalk Theater. Please come prepared with a pen and notepad for note taking. Parents are welcome to join us for this event!

**Family Weekend** was a wonderful and successful event for all in attendance. The College Counseling Workshop gave parents much needed information and insight regarding the College Admissions process, along with an introduction to Naviance Family Connection. The PowerPoint presentation will soon be available on the BHS website.

If you would like to activate your **Naviance Family Connection** account, contact Brook for your Access Code.

## November College Visits

Wed. Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Curry College	9:55am
Wed. Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Mills College	12:30pm
Thur. Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Drew University	9:30am
Fri. Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Cal Arts	9:30am
Fri. Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Otis College	11:30am
Tues. Nov. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Prescott College	10:00am

These meetings are open to Seniors and Juniors.  
Students must obtain permission from their teachers in order to attend.  
Check the College Counseling Calendar for updates and additions!

## SENIOR CORNER

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applications must be completed and reviewed by Brook by December 1, 2009.

### Order SAT and ACT score reports online

Allow at least 4 weeks for scores to be delivered to college admissions offices. You are responsible for sending test scores to each college. Your test scores will not appear on any of the documents the college counseling office submits.

### Keep Your Naviance Up to Date

All BHS materials will be submitted through Naviance. If you apply to a school that is not listed in your Naviance Account, it will delay the submission of crucial materials!

### Understand why colleges may report application materials as missing even though you've (and we've) submitted them.

- Timing: Many colleges say that more than half of their applications are submitted right on the deadline. This means that all of your materials may be received in the admissions office, but they may not have been processed yet. The process of uploading all your materials; batching your application, test scores and recommendation letters; and updating the student status as complete on the college website may take several weeks.
- Some admissions offices will send an automated message via e-mail or USPS stating your application is incomplete. These messages are often sent even though all of the applications received have not yet been processed.
- Inconsistent personal information submitted. If your name is Susan M. Mustang, you filled out your application using Susie Mustang, and you registered for the SAT under the name of S. M. Mustang the admissions office may not be able to match all of the parts of your application. Please note, the college office uses the name as it appears on your transcript. That is your official name in our records.

**Ensure that your applications reach their destinations.** The following are some steps that can help relieve the stress of this tension-filled process.

- Whether you're applying on paper or electronically, send applications in a timely manner — several weeks in advance of the deadline.
- Keep a copy of everything. Hang on to notes or emails from admissions offices, personal identification numbers and passwords and even cancelled checks. It never hurts to have full documentation of your actions and interactions, especially if a problem crops up later.
- Keep your name consistent. Choose one name and stick with it. If you include your middle name on one document, you must remember to use it on all other forms. If you have a nickname, decide whether you will apply using that name or your given name. Either way, don't switch once you've chosen because the likelihood of mix-ups and missing pieces will undoubtedly increase if you do.
- Get the facts. Even if part of your application really is missing, the situation is easily fixed. Check with Brook to verify what was sent. Find out the real deal by calling the college's admission office; and then take the steps necessary, if any, to rectify the situation.

## Scholarships:

**NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award:** If you own your own business or dream of doing so, apply online beginning October 31 at [www.NFIB.com/YEA](http://www.NFIB.com/YEA)

**Review your college websites** You should note whether your colleges require a separate application for scholarships. Some do and some don't. This information should be available on their websites.

**ACT HS Poster Concept Contest now Nationwide** for Juniors and Seniors: Design a poster (including visuals and tag line) that encourages students to attend college and to take the ACT® test as their college entrance exam. **The winner** will be posted in high schools nationwide to announce the 2010-2011 ACT test date information. **Contest Dates:** Official Entry Form and poster must be postmarked on or between October 19, 2009, and January 30, 2010. Winners will be announced on or about February 24, 2010. **Scholarships Awarded:** First Place: \$5,000 Second Place: \$2,500 Third Place: \$1,000. Scholarships are nonrenewable and will be paid directly to the two-year or four-year college in the United States of the winners' choice in winners' first year of college. Scholarships may be used for tuition and books only. For complete information: <http://www.actstudent.org/postercontest/index.html>

**American Legion Scholarship** available to seniors. These are in amounts between \$500 to 1500. These have an application and essay. The deadline is April 1. For more info visit [www.legionvthq.com](http://www.legionvthq.com)

**KFC Colonel's Scholars Program:** [www.kfcscholars.org](http://www.kfcscholars.org). Seniors may be eligible for up to \$20,000 in scholarships. The applications are open from December 1, 2009 to February 10, 2010.

**AXA Achievement Scholarships.** Apply by December 15! If you are active in your community, led a project that benefits others and overcame personal challenges, you may qualify for \$10,000 – 25,000! Applications and information are at [www.axaachievement.com](http://www.axaachievement.com).

**\$11 billion in merit scholarships available.** Visit [www.meritaid.com/counselor](http://www.meritaid.com/counselor).

## Juniors

**PSAT test results are due back in December.**

**Mark your calendars now for Wednesday, January 13, 7:00 PM.** The college counseling office will be holding a College Counseling Workshop for junior students and parents. More details will follow in the December newsletter.

## Sophomores and Freshmen

**PSAT test results are due back in December.**

**Grades 9-10 College Counseling Night** — The College Counseling office will be hosting an informational meeting for freshmen and sophomores, and their parents, on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00pm, in the Zalk Theater. The purpose of the evening is to answer questions you may have about the college counseling process and to introduce you to Naviance Family Connection. We will discuss:

- A general timeline for the college application process
- What resources are available through the college counseling office and Naviance
- What you need to know about standardized testing
- What parents should be doing to support students
- Any other questions or concerns you may have

## “Cool Colleges” Highlights

### Lewis & Clark College

A Lewis & Clark education isn't like anything you could experience anywhere else. We're a liberal arts college with a public conscience, a residential campus with global reach. Students are prepared for lives of local and global engagement. Our 1900 students represent the next generation of creative thinkers and leaders. Over half of our students participate in overseas and off-campus study programs. On campus, in the city of Portland, and throughout the Pacific Northwest, L&C students engage in a variety of service, internship, and recreational programs. [www.lclark.edu](http://www.lclark.edu)

### Mills College

Mills is an independent liberal arts college for women with graduate programs for women and men. The College educates students to think critically and communicate responsibly and effectively, to accept the challenges of their creative visions, and to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to effect thoughtful changes in a global, multicultural society. [www.mills.edu](http://www.mills.edu)