

## News from the Counseling Office

### ParentConnect Passwords

Please email the Counseling Office to get your password and pin number for ParentConnect. Apart from keeping track of your child's grades, ParentConnect has a calendar where we are putting information about college visits, scholarships, and important deadlines.

### California Scholarship Federation

CSF applications will be available the week of September 7<sup>th</sup>. They are due no later than Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Students must fill out the top portion and submit it with two dollars. We will verify eligibility in the Counseling Office.

### PSAT and IOWA Testing

The PSAT test will be given to the sophomores and juniors Wednesday, October 14. Parents do not have to sign up their children with the College Board. The juniors will automatically be entered in the National Merit Scholarship competition through the PSAT test. The IOWA tests will be given to the freshmen and seniors – one half on October 14<sup>th</sup> and the second half on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Letters of Recommendation

If your child will be needing letters of recommendation for college or scholarships, we ask that requests are made to their teachers or counselor 2 to 3 weeks before the due date. Please give the recommender sufficient time to write an appropriate recommendation and include a brag sheets that can give the recommender additional information to include in the letter. A brag sheet form can be found in the Counseling Office.

The Counseling Office will return all letters of recommendation and transcripts to the student for mailing. A proof of mailing from the post office is suggested. The only exception being NCAA requested transcripts.

### Seniors

Seniors can start applying to the CSU's on October 1<sup>st</sup> at <http://www.csumentor.edu/admissionapp>. They do not need official transcripts to apply and can view their academic history in Parent Connect. The print out from ParentConnect is *not* an official transcript.

Official transcripts can be requested from the Counseling Office and will take 2 or 3 days to process. If the envelop bearing the "official transcript inside" stamp is opened by anyone other than the school for which it is intended, that transcript becomes unofficial and a new one must be obtained.

Students need to check the deadlines for private university admissions as they can be anywhere from October to January. The application period for the UC's does not open until November. Starting in October, the UC application may be available at:

[http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad\\_adm/apply/apply\\_online.html](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/apply/apply_online.html)

Seniors have the October, November and December SAT dates available for UC/CSU admission. Check the collegeboard.com website. UC requires the SAT Subject Tests.