



LELAND HIGH SCHOOL CAREER CENTER FALL 2008 PARENT NEWSLETTER

LELAND'S COLLEGE AND CAREER EVENTS

College Match Event: Leland will offer a College Match Event for students and their parents on Saturday, October 25 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Additional details will be announced later.

Financial Aid Night for our seniors and their parents will be held on Tuesday, February 10th from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the ITC/Library. If you are unable to attend this workshop, information about workshops at other high schools will be available in the Career Center.

Community College Night will be held at Leland next spring with representatives from our six local community colleges.

Look for Career Center announcements in The Charger Account and our electronic parent newsletter.

COLLEGE FAIRS

East Side Union High School District will be hosting a **College Night on 10/13 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Independence High School. WACAC College Fair will be held on Thursday, April 30th** at Mission College. The East Side College Fair will include over 100 colleges and the WACAC Fair will include between 150 and 175 colleges. We encourage students and parents to take advantage of these excellent opportunities to meet with representatives from colleges, universities, and military academies.

COLLEGE INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

College Application Packets with application tips and UC and CSU information will be available on October 5th for seniors in the Career Center. The Career Center offers many application workshops to our seniors. CSU and UC applications are accepted until 11/30. California has one of the best public college systems in the country. Every year, it becomes more competitive for available spaces. The California Budget may impact the numbers of students the public universities admit. We are encouraging everyone to consider all post secondary options including independent colleges and out of state colleges. Students interested in California public colleges need to apply broadly. Facts to consider when making decisions are: the total cost of the education, number of years to obtain a degree, and availability of classes and services. Seniors planning on enrolling at a community college will begin the process next spring.

TESTING INFORMATION

SAT/ACT INFO

Students may obtain SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject, and ACT registration forms in the Career Center. Colleges will accept both the SAT Reasoning or ACT and will take their best score. If the student is taking the ACT they need to know that many colleges (including UC) will also require the Optional Writing Test. Most colleges will not accept test scores from seniors after the December testing dates. Seniors are responsible for meeting deadlines and officially sending test scores to each college. Most colleges, including UC's, will require the SAT Reasoning Test. UC's and some privates also require SAT Subject Tests. UC's requirement for the SAT Subject Tests are two SAT Subject Tests in different subjects (not Math 1C). Test dates are available on the Career Center Page at lelandhigh.org. Students requesting fee waivers for these tests need to see Mrs. Dauenhauer in the Main Office.

PSAT INFORMATION

Leland will be offering the PSAT on Wednesday, **October 15th at 8 a.m.** The district will pay for all juniors to take the test and they do not need to register. Because the PSAT is geared for juniors, we do not encourage sophomores to take it. If a sophomore is in Algebra II they may consider taking it. Interested sophomores (not parents because of closed campus) can sign up between October 1st and 8th in the Career Center during lunch. Cost is \$15.00. Make checks payable to Leland High School. Juniors and sophomores (who register and pay) will receive a booklet to help them prepare for the PSAT. We will not allow freshmen take the PSAT because it is geared for juniors. PSAT results will be distributed to students in their social science class in late December. Revolution Test Prep will offer an informational meeting about understanding the PSAT results to students and parents on January 15.

TEST PREP

Information about test prep resources and courses is available in the Career Center. Students can prepare for these tests with books, online classes, and classes. E Group Learning and Revolution Prep offer classes for a fee at Leland. Information is available at: egrouplearning.com or revolutionprep.com. Revolution offers financial aid to students who qualify (call 877-REV-PREP). The Career Center has many testing books that students can checkout. Next semester Revolution will offer Mock ACT's and SAT's for a small fee.

GET IN 2 COLLEGE PROGRAM

Get In 2 College is a wonderful resource for students and parents that is **only** available at the **Career Center Website at lelandhigh.org**. This program includes a College Admission Handbook, Private Subscriber Site, Consolidated Page of Links, Mini-Manuals and PowerPoints. The 43 page College Admission Handbook has comprehensive information about the college process. We feel this Handbook is a must read for our students and parents. Students may obtain a copy of the Handbook in the Career Center. The private website has downloadable documents including grade level calendars and check lists, campus visits, financing college, college comparison, SAT/ACT Testing, etc. The consolidated page of over 600 helpful links is sorted by category. Some topics in the Mini-Manuals include: Getting Organized for College, College Visits, Common Application, Effective Essays, Standardized Testing, and Financial Aid/Scholarships. We strongly encourage you to use this great program and take advantage of the wealth of information in the Handbook and at this site. This program should be updated with the 08-09 resources by 9/19.

COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER INFORMATION

Leland offers a four-year comprehensive career/college guidance program. Our program is integrated directly into the student's course work. There are appropriate career/college guidance activities for each grade level. Seniors complete the unit in the fall in their Economics or American Government class. Juniors complete the unit in their English Class in February. Sophomores complete the unit in November in their history class. Freshmen complete the unit in December or January in their history class. The students will also complete a computer activity during this unit using the following online programs: Get In 2 College, Choices Explorer, Choices Planner, and Prep HQ.

LHS has two comprehensive career/college guidance computer programs that are Internet based and can be used to research careers, colleges, financial aid and many other topics. Parents and students can set up an account with these excellent programs using any computer with Internet access. Parents can access Choices Planner and Choices Explorer by going to www.bridges.com. Enter SITE ID 0011971 and password Leland. Click on Create a Portfolio. Enter your required information to create your account. Write down your portfolio name and password. Also at this site is an online personality assessment that we have sophomores complete, Do What You Are. Parents are encouraged to take advantage of the excellent resources by clicking on the Parent Tab. Parents can also use all of these programs. Information about these programs is available at the Career Center Website (under construction). Leland also has students use another program, Prep HQ. Prep HQ is a great program for students to search for scholarships. Parents can only access Prep HQ through their students' account (info about Prep HQ will be added to the Career Center Site shortly). Prep HQ allows Leland to send out e-mail messages to students and parents. If your student was here last year and has not been receiving messages from Mrs. Albers regarding upcoming college visits encourage them to see Mrs. Albers and set up their account and input their and your e-mail addresses.

Leland's career center has excellent college and career resources for parents and students. We encourage students and parents to use the computer guidance programs and Get In 2 College throughout the year to research careers, majors, colleges, and financial aid.

Leland's Career Center is open from 8:00-4:30. You may reach Joan Albers in the Career Center at [Joan Albers@sjusd.org](mailto:Joan.Albers@sjusd.org) or 535-6290 x241. Make sure that you have followed instructions by the district to allow your e-mail to be received. Mark McClure is our Academic Counselor and is currently working with credit deficient seniors. Mark is located in the ITC Counseling Office.

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Leland will offer a **Financial Aid Night for seniors and their parents on February 10th at 6:30 p.m.** The FAFSA is the form that needs to be submitted for any senior applying for federal, state and institutional aid. The FAFSA will be available in January. If you are planning on submitting the FAFSA online, you will need to request a PIN in advance for a parent and student at fafsa.ed.gov. Students need to be aware of all required forms and deadlines. Information is available in the Career Center.

Independent/private colleges require additional financial aid forms. Many colleges require the **CSS Profile**. The Profile needs to be submitted and can be accessed at collegeboard.com.

Most colleges offer merit scholarships. Many colleges have programs and funding for underrepresented minority and economically disadvantaged students.

If your senior is applying for California's financial aid, Cal Grant, he or she will need to submit the FAFSA and GPA Verification Form by March 2.

If you would like to find out how much you will be expected to contribute for your child's college education, Financial Aid Calculators are available at fafsa4caster.ed.gov, collegeboard.com or act.org.

Financial Aid websites: finaid.org, csac.ca.gov, salliemae.com, fafsa.ed.gov, collegeboard.org.

Scams: Parents and students need to be aware of **scholarship scams**, fraudulent scholarship search services, and fraudulent financial aid seminars. Information is available in the Career Center.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Leland's **Scholarship Bulletin** is posted in the Career Center, Social Science, and English classrooms. This bulletin has information about many scholarship opportunities for high school students in grades 9-12 and is updated monthly. Students may obtain copies of this bulletin and the scholarship applications from the Career Center.

Scholarship websites: fastweb.com, finaid.org, srnexpress.com, gocollege.com, finaid.org, Petersons.com.