

Welcome to  
High School

8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Orientation

# Prayer and Introductions

- ▣ Janet Fogh, HS Principal
- ▣ Joseph Rowland, College Counselor/ Dean of Students

***We really enjoyed having  
the 8th graders with us today!***

# Overview of Academics

At the Beginning of the Process, but Every Year is Important!

Grades to meet A-G Course Requirements

SAT / ACT Test Information

UC and CSU Important Facts

CSU vs. UC Comparison of Eligibility Requirements

Timeline for College Admissions

CSU Information

UC Information

# Defining Who You Are

- ▣ Who Are You / Who Are You Becoming?
- ▣ What are you passionate about?
- ▣ Develop those interests, talents, abilities.
- ▣ The importance of clubs, sports, community service, leadership, developing the whole person...
- ▣ Examples
- ▣ Develop a Passion! Get involved!
- ▣ You will be writing essays that ask who you are.

# 4 Categories of Colleges/ Universities

Community Colleges

<http://www.cccco.edu>

California State Universities  
(CSU)

[www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)

University of California (UC)

[www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply)

Private / Highly Competitive  
Universities

<https://www.commonapp.org>

Christian / Private

**Individual university websites**

Military Academies

Specialty colleges (i.e.:  
Art, Culinary, etc...)

# California's A-G Requirements

A-G Categories	VCHS' Grad. Req.	Minimum for CSU	Minimum for UC
"a": History/ Social Sciences	3 years	2 years including one year of US History or one semester of US History and 1 semester of American Govt., <u>and</u> 1 year of history/social science from either the "a" or "g" area.	2 years including one year of US History or one semester of US History and 1 semester of American Govt., <u>and</u> 1 year of World History.
"b": English	4 years	4 years	4 years
"c": Mathematics	3 years	3 years	3 years, (4 yrs. Recommended)
"d": Science	2 years	1 yr. Physical Science / 1 year Biological Science, one from "d" and one from either "d" or "g" area.	2 years from "d" area classes. (3 years recommended)
"e": World Languages	Highly recommended / For class of 2013 & afterwards, 2 years.	2 years	2 years, (3 years recommended)
"f": VPA/Fine Arts	1 year	1 year	1 year
"g": College Preparatory Elective	1 year Practical Arts 60 cred. / 40 cred.	1 year	1 year

Some of these requirements, specifically the timing for them being accomplished, has changed starting with the class entering in the Fall of 2012 (this year's juniors.) These changes do not affect this year's seniors.

# Grade Requirement to Meet A-G Requirements

- ▣ Preparation for the CSU/ UC Schools
- ▣ It is important to be aware that for the UC / CSU schools to count a class as having met their “a-g” requirements for college admission, the semester grade must be a C (70%) or above.
- ▣ VCS students are highly encouraged to remediate any course grade less than a C if it is one required under the “a-g” coursework as listed below, in order to ensure eligibility at a CSU or UC campus.

# For Course Scheduling

- ▣ New requirement for the UC track: If you're applying for admission for fall 2012 or beyond, you must complete 11 of the 15 "a-g" courses prior to your senior year.

# Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

## 14 Approved Advanced Placement Courses

- ❑ Studio Art: 2-D Design
- ❑ Studio Art: Drawing
- ❑ European History
- ❑ Microeconomics
- ❑ U.S. Government and Politics
- ❑ Calculus AB
- ❑ Statistics
- ❑ United States History
- ❑ Biology
- ❑ English Literature and Composition
- ❑ Chemistry
- ❑ Psychology
- ❑ English Language and Composition
- ❑ Spanish Language

# Why Take an AP Class?

- ▣ A College Level class (more expected) / Will challenge you! Expect more homework and studying to be required.
- ▣ Shows readiness at a more advanced level
- ▣ Grade point advantage
- ▣ Summer requirements
- ▣ AP Test in May – roughly \$87 each
- ▣ Universities look to see if top students are taking advantage of more advanced courses.

# SAT/ ACT

- ▣ Required by almost all 4-year Universities
- ▣ [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for SAT
- ▣ [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) for ACT
- ▣ On these websites:
  - Daily Practice questions
  - Interest Inventories for careers and majors
  - College comparisons

# California Community Colleges

- ▣ Minimum Eligibility: High School Diploma
- ▣ Complete an application during the spring semester
- ▣ Value of taking the SAT or ACT
- ▣ Transfer programs to CSU / UC schools

# California State Universities (CSU)

- ▣ Minimum Eligibility
- ▣ - High School Diploma
- ▣ - Meet Eligibility Criteria
- ▣ - Min. of 2.0 GPA
- ▣ - A-G Required Classes all completed w/ a C or greater.
  
- ▣ SAT or ACT
- ▣ Sliding table of GPA vs./ test scores. **(3.0 or above is Good!)**
- ▣ Seniors submit applications between October 1st and November 30th.
- ▣ Impacted programs have additional admissions criteria above the minimum CSU standards
- ▣ **Sacramento State and Sonoma State priority entrance!**
- ▣ Admits roughly the top 30% of HS graduates.

# University of California (UC)

- Minimum Eligibility
- - High School Diploma
- - Meet Eligibility Criteria
- - Minimum of 3.0 GPA
- - A-G Required Classes all completed w/ a C or greater.
  
- Application including Essay
- SAT Reasoning or ACT + writing
- Sliding table of GPA vs./ test scores. (3.5 to 4.15 are average GPA)
- Application website opens Oct. 1st
- Seniors submit application between Nov. 1 and Nov. 30th
- Roads to Admission
- Admits roughly the top 12.5% of HS graduates.

# Private / Highly Competitive Universities

- ▣ Christian Universities
- ▣ Private Universities
- ▣ Military Academies – Start Spring of Junior Year
- ▣ Specialty Colleges (Culinary, Arts, etc...)
  
- ▣ Apply via University's website
- ▣ Common Application
- ▣ Teacher and/or Counselor Recommendations

# How Many? Which Ones?

- ▣ 3-Tier Planning
- ▣ What are you looking for?
- ▣ Specialties of programs / Expertise of University
- ▣ Environment
- ▣ Location
- ▣ College Visits
- ▣ Feasibility (Cost, qualifications)

**Three Tiers of Colleges**

**Clearly Within My Reach / Sure Thing**

**Reasonably Likely / Possible / My Desire!**

**My Absolute Dream!**



# Naviance



- ▣ <http://connection.naviance.com/vchs>
- ▣ Track college interest, college applications, application status
- ▣ College search, career survey, request for transcripts, and graduation surveys

# What Should I Be Doing Now?

## Freshmen

- ▣ Diligent in your studies
- ▣ Mock SAT and/or PSAT
- ▣ **Visit the College Resource Center – rm. 202!**
- ▣ Begin researching potential colleges
- ▣ Visit with College Reps who come through
- ▣ Get involved in school organizations/ clubs/ service organizations/ leadership roles. It's better to have 2-3 major areas that you've consistently been involved in, instead of 10 you were sporadically involved in or just briefly involved in.

## Everyone!

- ▣ College visits!
- ▣ Keep your academics as a top priority.
- ▣ If interested in a military academy – the application process begins much earlier.
- ▣ Begin planning what course load you desire for the next school year that will best help you to achieve your objectives college-wise.
- ▣ Look for service/ leadership opportunities for next year (ie: student council, youth group, clubs, etc...)

# Athletics at VCS

## ▣ Fall

- Football
- Cheerleading
- Volleyball
- Cross Country
- Boys' Soccer

## ▣ Winter

- Basketball
- Wrestling
- Cheerleading
- Intramural Bowling

## ▣ Spring

- Baseball
- Softball
- Golf
- Girls' Soccer
- Track and Field

Our student athletes are actively recruited by colleges who scout them and come to visit them at our school.

# Clubs

- ▣ National Honor Society
- ▣ Mu Alpha Theta
- ▣ CA Scholarship Federation
- ▣ International Quill and Scroll
- ▣ Spanish Club
- ▣ French Club
- ▣ Teenage Republicans
- ▣ Teenage Democrats
- ▣ Student Council
- ▣ Men of God Discipleship
- ▣ Sophomore Leadership
- ▣ Do Hard Things Club
- ▣ S (Soroptimists) Club
- ▣ Asian Heritage Club
- ▣ Science Club
- ▣ Boys' Bible Study
- ▣ Girls' Bible Study

# Social Activities & Events

- ▣ Back to School BBQ / Movie
- ▣ Spirit Weeks
- ▣ Pep Rallies
- ▣ Deck the Halls
- ▣ Powderpuff Game
- ▣ Alumni sports games
- ▣ 30 Hour Famine
- ▣ Homecoming w/ Floats, Parade, Game, and Dance
- ▣ Black and White Tie Event
- ▣ Spring Formal / Prom
- ▣ Spring Dance/ Sadie Hawkins

# Q & A

- ▣ What questions do you have?
- ▣ We look forward to having you join us in August 2011 to begin your HS career!

***Check out the New College  
Resource Center in room 202!***