The College Process Starts in Middle School & Meet the CUSD Counselors
AOMS April 15, 2015
Tonight’s Agenda

❖ The “a - g” Subject Requirements
❖ What Colleges Look for in a Student’s Application
❖ Balancing Academics and Extra-curriculars
❖ 6 Best College Planning Roles for Parents
❖ Q & A Session
UC/CSU “a - g” Requirements –
All Course Grades must be a “C” or better

a. **History/Social Science** – 2 years

b. **English** - 4 years

c. **Mathematics** - 3 years - Alg. 1, Geometry, Alg. 2
   (4 years recommended)

d. **Laboratory Science** - 2 years
   (3 years recommended)

e. **Language Other Than English**
   2 years of the same language
   (3 years recommended)

f. **Visual and Performing Arts** - 1 year

g. **College-Preparatory Elective** - 1 year
CUSD Graduation = “a - g” Requirements beginning with Class of 2017
CUSD Graduation Requirements

1. **Earn 230 Total Credits to Graduate**
   - Pass all required courses (the UC/CSU a - g subject requirements)
   - Pass PE- an additional high school required course.
   - All 9th grade students must take PE 1
   - Pass additional elective courses

2. **Pass the CAHSEE – Taken 10th grade year**

3. **Complete 20 Hours of Community Service**

4. **Earn 1.5 or Higher Total Weighted GPA**
9th Grade Required Courses
9th Grade English Course Placement

All Freshmen must be enrolled in English 1 or English 1 Honors.

**Prerequisite:** Automatic placement if “A” or “B” in first semester of 8th grade English-Advanced or “A” in first semester 8th grade English.
# 9th Grade Math Course Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8th Grade Math:</th>
<th>Semester Grade Earned:</th>
<th>Select this 9th Grade Math:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math 8 CC</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>Algebra 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 8B/Algebra 1 CC</td>
<td>A, B</td>
<td>Geometry or Geometry Honors*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 8B/Algebra 1 CC</td>
<td>C, D or F</td>
<td>Algebra 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geometry Honors</td>
<td>A, B</td>
<td>Algebra 2 or Algebra 2 Honors*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geometry Honors</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Algebra 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geometry Honors</td>
<td>D, F</td>
<td>Geometry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*High School Math Department makes final placements in **Geometry Honors and Algebra 2 Honors** based on course grades and a diagnostic test given in spring of 8th grade.
Student Applications
## Factors Colleges Consider

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Considerable importance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grades in college prep courses</td>
<td>84.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strength of curriculum</td>
<td>67.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission test scores (SAT, ACT)</td>
<td>59.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades in all courses</td>
<td>51.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay or writing sample</td>
<td>24.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student's demonstrated interest</td>
<td>20.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counselor recommendation</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Rank</td>
<td>18.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher recommendation</td>
<td>16.5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
On Making An Application Stand Out

In general, we encourage students to concentrate less on building a resume or creating a profile and more on digging deep into things that interest and intrigue them. Sometimes this means adjusting an academic schedule to allow sufficient time for activities that truly matter. Sometimes it means cutting back on activities to focus on academic pursuits. Sometimes it means making time to attend to issues of health or family. Whatever the choices, we hope the focus remains on maintaining a healthy balance. Eager, engaged, happy and curious students are the most likely to inject personal and intellectual energy into their applications, and, wherever they go to college, they are likely to continue to explore their passions and potential.

Rick Shaw
Dean of Undergraduate Admission
Finding Balance- Do’s & Don’t’s

Academics

ASB
VAPA
Athletics
Clubs
Community Service
Balancing Do’s

Discover & pursue **vigorously** your passions
Balancing Don’t’s

- Overcommit
- Take too heavy an academic load
- Play the “Comparison Game”
6 BEST College Planning Jobs for Parents

Cheerleader-in-Chief

Chief Financial Officer
6 BEST College Planning Jobs for Parents

- Travel Agent
- Database Administrator
6 BEST College Planning Jobs for Parents

Copy Editor

College parent