



HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

NEWSLETTER

Class of 2006

8th Grade Edition

January 2002

8th Grade Student and Parent Nights

These evening meetings for eighth grade students and parents explore national, state and postsecondary policies, trends and requirements influencing the educational planning of the college-bound population. This information is designed to help families in goal setting and provides perspectives for later selection of ninth grade courses. **In March/April each individual high school will offer 8th grade parent and student meetings to focus specifically upon the high school curriculum and the registration process.** Parents will soon be notified by the high schools of the March/April dates for the registration orientation meetings to be presented by high school staff.

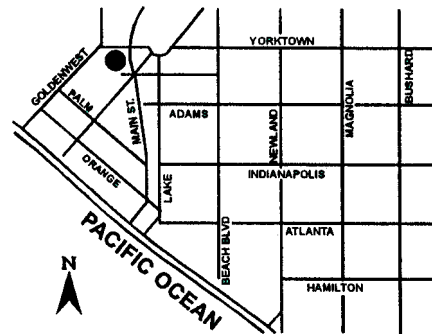
Parental involvement is the key to a successful college prep program. Parent meetings are designed to help the student's greatest resource, an involved parent, become a knowledgeable, supportive partner in educational planning. There is increased competition for admission into many colleges and into the most common major areas of study. With increased college costs, it becomes even more important that the college student is well prepared by enrollment in a college prep high school program. Remedial coursework in college not only is time consuming, but also requires increased college expenses. All college systems, including the community college, are now urging students to complete a stronger pattern of coursework in high school.

Before registration for 9th grade classes, both students and parents should have a clear understanding of:

- increased college admission competition
- high school guidance resources
- parent monitoring of student progress
- community college, 4 year college and university systems
- district graduation requirements
- Scholar with Distinction, Scholar with Honors, and Scholar with Expertise Programs
- Advanced Placement coursework and college credit
- development of educational plans for optimal college choices
- Specialized Training/Talent Achievement Recognition (STAR) Program
- "College-prep" vs. "Honors" levels of coursework
- weighted courses
- open enrollment availability (School-of-Choice)
- calendar of site 8th grade parent/student meetings
- Golden State Seal Merit Diploma option

These topics will be discussed at each FEBRUARY meeting presented by Dorothy Crutcher, District Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

High Schools: Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, and Westminster	Tuesday, February 5, 2002 7:00 p.m. Meeting Location: Auditorium, HBHS 1905 Main Street, H. B. <i>PARK IN REAR LOT BY THE GYM</i>
High Schools: Edison, Marina, and Ocean View	Wednesday, February 6, 2002 7:00 p.m. Meeting Location: Auditorium, HBHS 1905 Main Street, H. B. <i>PARK IN REAR LOT BY THE GYM</i>



Students and parents may attend the meeting on the most convenient date.

INSIDE (page 3 of this newsletter):

PARENT PERMISSION SLIP FOR HONORS PLACEMENT TESTING (DCAT)

Placement in College Prep Courses

By March your student will be receiving information about ninth grade courses from your local high school and making course selections for fall. As a student enters high school it is important that he/she completes a level of coursework that will provide a successful, motivating experience. I am confident you will find that schools within the district provide a curriculum to meet the needs of all students.

A college preparatory pattern of coursework is required for admission to the California State University or the University of California. Most other four year universities have similar minimum subject area requirements.

- 4 years - English ("college-prep" or "honors" level)
- 3 years - Advanced Math (2 years Algebra, 1 year Geometry); **UC recommends 4 years**
- 2 years - Lab Science (beyond 9th grade); **from two of these areas: biology, chemistry, physics**
- 2 years - Foreign Language (same language); **UC recommends 3-4 years**
- 1 year - U.S. History
- 1 year - World History (or AP European History)
- 1 year - Visual/Performing Arts
- 1 year - Academic electives

There are a variety of courses in high school which may be used to fulfill college subject requirements. Two levels of college preparatory coursework are offered to college-bound students:

- "college-prep"
- "honors"

Students may complete subject requirements for college or university admission in either level or by a combination of "college-prep" and "honors" courses. Mid-year grades in academic 8th grade courses, teacher recommendations and test scores will help you and your student to select courses appropriate for your student's educational plan.

As part of the educational planning process, your student may be tested in the areas of math and reading during the regular school day at the 8th grade school. In addition, **the Developing Cognitive Abilities Test (DCAT) will be offered to students interested in "Honors" level coursework and/or lab science placement (Biology). The DCAT exam administered at each high school on Saturday morning, February 23, will begin the identification of academically talented students (along with 8th grade teacher recommendations) for honors level/accelerated course placement in the areas of English, Biology (lab science) and/or social studies. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO TAKE THE DCAT TO REGISTER FOR "COLLEGE PREP/UNIVERSITY APPROVED" COURSES.** The testing time for your student is listed on the facing page above the "PARENT PERMISSION FOR TESTING" slip.

The DCAT exam is being held on a Saturday morning since only a limited number of students will elect to take the exam. The DCAT takes about an hour, having three areas: verbal, math and spatial relationships. All students bringing a completed parent permission slip will be tested.

Questions Related to Honors Course Placement

1. **Does my student have to complete honors courses to get into a university?**
No, a student may complete college admission requirements in regular college-prep courses as well as through the honors courses. A student planning entrance into the more competitive universities and/or competitive college majors will broaden admissions options with the completion of honors and/or Advanced Placement level courses.
2. **May a student take more than one course at the honors level?**
Yes, depending upon the interests, strengths, and educational goals of the student.
3. **Because my student qualifies for honors courses, will my student be successful in the honors program?**
Not necessarily, because students must be responsible and committed to success. This commitment may be demonstrated by a number of traits related to academic success including completing of homework assignments, taking accurate notes in class, and continuing recreational reading.
4. **If a student does not enter the English honors program as a 9th grader, can this student enter at a later time?**
Although it is recommended that a qualified student enter the honors program as a 9th grader, it is possible to delay entry until the sophomore year. This postponed entry option may be helpful to those students needing additional time to develop strong study skills or to some students taking a heavy academic load.
5. **Is the honors program compatible with sports, extracurricular activities, outside jobs, etc.?**
Yes, for some highly motivated, well-organized students. Other college-prep students may find it difficult to manage their time successfully when the demands of the extracurricular activity conflict with homework assignments.
6. **Must my student take honors courses to qualify for honors at graduation?**
No. The pattern of college prep coursework for the designation of "Scholar with Honors" exceeds the minimum admission criteria for the University of California. Some "Scholar with Honors" students will complete honors courses in an area of strength, others will not. All Scholars with Distinction are required to complete a total of 4 years of Advanced Placement coursework. Honors level courses may be a prerequisite to admission to a specific AP course.

Both students and parents are encouraged to attend.
8th Grade Nights
All Meetings Start at 7:00 P.M.

	<u>COLLEGE PREP ED. PLANS</u>		<u>HONORS NIGHTS</u>		<u>GENERAL PARENT NIGHTS</u>		
	Date	Location	Date	Location	Date	8th Grade School	Location
EHS	Wed. 2/6	District Auditorium 1905 Main Street Huntington Beach	Wed. 3/27	EHS Cafeteria	Wed. 4/10 Thurs. 4/11	Sowers All other enrolling students/parents plus any from Sowers who missed 4/10 meeting	EHS Cafeteria EHS Cafeteria
FBHS	Tues. 2/5	District Auditorium 1905 Main Street Huntington Beach	Mon. 3/4	FBHS West, Multipurpose Room	Mon. 3/18 Mon. 4/8 Mon. 3/25	Fulton Masuda Moiola and Shoreline Christian	at Fulton at Masuda at Moiola
HBHS	Tues. 2/5	District Auditorium 1905 Main Street Huntington Beach	Wed. 3/27	HBHS Student Center	Wed. 4/10	All enrolling students/ parents	HBHS Gymnasium
MHS	Wed. 2/6	District Auditorium 1905 Main Street Huntington Beach	Thurs. 3/21	MHS Student Cafe	Tues. 4/9 Thurs. 4/18	Stacey and Spring View Marine View and Mesa View	MHS Student Cafe MHS Student Cafe
OVHS	Wed. 2/6	District Auditorium 1905 Main Street Huntington Beach	(see General Parent Night)		(includes Honors Night information) Thurs. 3/21	All enrolling students/ parents	OVHS Commons
WHS	Tues. 2/5	District Auditorium 1905 Main Street Huntington Beach	(see General Parent Nights)		(includes Honors Night information) Mon. 3/18 Mon. 3/11 Tues. 4/16	Johnson Warner Stacey	at Johnson at Warner at Stacey

High School Registration Information — Save

Inside (page 3):
Parent permission slip for Honors placement testing