

# THE SPLINTER

Redwood High School

SENIOR NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2010

**\*Senior Application Night- Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM- CEA & Posted Locations\***

**This is the night when we will go over UC and CSU applications line by line, and answer questions. We will also be discussing the Common Application and Community College and transfer information. DON'T MISS IT !!!!**

## COMPLETING UC AND CSU APPLICATIONS

Both the UC and CSU systems require students to apply online. For each system the applicant creates a user account and password to work on his/her application over time. You may begin working on your application October 1<sup>st</sup>. Students need to make sure to SAVE work frequently to avoid losing data. Applicants must submit their University of California and California State University applications during the priority-filing period in November in order to ensure consideration at the campuses of their choice. CSU will accept applications beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> whereas you cannot submit your UC application until November 1<sup>st</sup>. We suggest you submit as soon as possible. The last day to submit is November 30th, so don't wait as you may find the sites jammed.

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

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNSELORS & TEACHERS

Applicants do not need to submit recommendations from counselors and teachers unless the college or university requests them. **The UC and CSU systems DO NOT ACCEPT** letters of recommendation during the application process. *However, most private and some out-of-state public colleges require letters of recommendation from your counselor and/or your teachers.* Because there is rarely time during the school day to work on recommendations, counselors and teachers write them after hours, so it is important for students to be considerate in requesting recommendations.

1. Writing a letter of recommendation takes time and effort on the part of your teachers and counselor. Since the same letter can usually be sent to all colleges, it

makes sense to give all your forms and recommendation requests to the same teachers.

2. Ask your recommenders what information they would like from you. **See your counselor for their Recommendation Information form. This must be completed and returned before your counselor can begin your letter of rec.** You may want to make a personal copy of this form **before giving it to your counselor** in case your teachers also want a copy.

3. Give your recommendation writers plenty of time to complete your forms. Counselors require **20 working days** to write a comprehensive letter of recommendation. Students applying early should have the forms to their counselors by October 15<sup>th</sup> to meet any November/December deadlines or by October 1<sup>st</sup> for EA/ED applications due Nov. 1st. If you have a recommendation, which is due anytime in January, you must request it from your counselor by November 15<sup>th</sup>. Earlier is better; if you request it at the last minute, it is likely the counselor's part will be late, and not as comprehensive.

4. If a teacher seems reluctant to write you a recommendation, don't force the issue. He/she is either overburdened or not enthusiastic about your candidacy.

5. Always supply an **addressed envelope** with postage to each recommendation writer for non online applications. (\$.44 for teachers and \$.61 for counselors for business sized envelopes; \$1.05 large envelopes).

6. Follow-up with a thank you note to those who have written your recommendations.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Dates of college representative visits to Redwood, scholarship opportunities as well as tutoring lists and college statistics for Redwood graduates are posted on [www.redwood.org](http://www.redwood.org) via the Resource Center link under College & Career Center.

**SHOULD I USE THE COMMON APPLICATION? SEE NEXT PAGE**

## WHY A COMMON APPLICATION?

Over 400 colleges have worked together to develop and distribute the Common application. *Members encourage its use and all give equal consideration to the Common Application and the college's own form.* Extensive experience with this form over a period of several years has demonstrated its advantages to both students and counselors. The "Application for Undergraduate Admission" is completed only once; photocopies or electronic submissions may then be sent to any number of participating colleges. The same is true of the "School Report," "Midyear Report," and "Teacher Evaluation" portions. This procedure simplifies the college application process by saving time and eliminating unnecessary duplication of effort. **Supplemental information** is required by many colleges so be sure to check this part of the application.

The Common Application can be downloaded from the website on the Internet ([www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)) or completed online and submitted electronically to selected colleges.

## FINANCIAL AID FOR SENIORS

The Counseling Department is offering a **Financial Aid evening on Thursday, December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.** Current information on grants and the completion of the **FAFSA** will be provided.

**FAFSA:** Families must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to initiate the financial aid application process. This is the form that every financial aid applicant must eventually fill out to establish eligibility for federal aid and, for private schools not using The Profile and for institutional and state aid as well. Your family may need to complete both forms.

The FAFSA on the Web worksheet is available in December in the College & Career Center but cannot be submitted until January 1. The FAFSA must be completed via the Internet using [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Students and parents are each required to have a pin number which can be set up ahead of time.

For California public colleges the deadline is March 2nd. Please check private and out of state college websites for their deadlines. The FAFSA is a four-page form that asks questions about the family's income and assets, and about the student's college plans. The completed application is sent to a federal processor. About 2-4 weeks later the family will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) containing the calculated Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Parents may make corrections on their tax figures and add and delete colleges on this form and resubmit the information. There is no charge for this service. Students must check with the colleges they are applying to for specific financial aid deadlines.

**THE PROFILE:** Many private colleges use the Financial Aid Profile to award *nonfederal* student aid

funds. Students will need to begin the process as early as October by deciding which private colleges they will be applying to for admission and financial aid. The student then determines whether the school he/she applies to require the Profile by checking the list in the Profile Registration forms available in the Counseling Office or the College/Career Center.

Cost: All students are charged \$25 for the initial application. This covers the costs of creating your Profile Application and the first school report. You will be charged \$16 for each additional college or program to which you want information sent. A limited number of fee waivers are granted to first-time college applicants from families with very low incomes and few assets. The fee waiver covers the cost of PROFILE registration and reporting up to six colleges or programs. Fee waivers are awarded automatically online based on family financial information. For more information call 1-305-829-9793 or visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to register beginning October 1, 2010.

**FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE:** Once the colleges receive the information that has been given on the PROFILE and/or the FAFSA (which calculates the expected family contribution), they will notify the family of its financial aid package. This usually consists of: grant money, work/study (a job on campus) and loans.

**GPA VERIFICATION FORM:** In order to receive a grant from the state of California, students must complete the Grade Point Average Verification Form. This form is available in the College/Career Center and in the counseling office in December and must be filed by March 2. We encourage you to file the form as soon as possible.

## SHOULD YOU ATTEND A COMMUNITY COLLEGE?

There are 112 community colleges in California, which offer programs for students transferring to four-year colleges as well as those pursuing vocational-technical programs. There are some good reasons why you might want to consider enrollment at a community college.

1. Class sizes tend to be small and students have better access to instructors and support services such as tutoring centers. The focus is on student learning.
2. The community college is an excellent educational value. You can receive a quality education at very low cost.
3. If you are not eligible for the four-year college or university of your choice, you can make up academic deficiencies and improve your grade point average. The UC and CSU systems **give first priority** to community college transfers with junior standing over other transfer students.
4. You may wish to attend college for a year or two to learn a skill or trade prior to entering the job market. Private professional and trade schools can be very expensive. The community college may offer many of the same programs.
5. Finally, you may be undecided as to the field of study you would like to pursue. Enrollment at the community college affords you an excellent opportunity to explore the various programs of study and to make career decisions.

**For a complete list of California Community Colleges visit: [www.cccco.edu](http://www.cccco.edu)**

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS & DEADLINES

**Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm- Senior Application Night**

**Monday, November 15th - Last day to request Letters of Recommendation from your Counselor for January application deadlines.**

**Tuesday, November 30th- SUBMISSION DEADLINE**  
**UC and CSU applications MUST be electronically submitted. We advise you to do it earlier as waiting to the last minute can be risky.**

**Thursday, December 2nd – 6:30- 8:30 pm – Library**  
 Financial Aid Workshop for seniors and their parents. Tips on how to complete the FAFSA will be covered.

**FAFSA Filing Dates:** January 2 – March 2, 2011 (*California schools; check deadlines for other states.*)

## TRANSCRIPTS

**It is the student's responsibility to order transcripts for applications from the Records Clerk in the Counseling Office. The first three paper transcripts are free and then \$3.00 each. Transcripts submitted for on-line Common Applications are a \$10.00 flat fee.**

*Almost all private and out-of-state colleges require that a transcript be sent with a student's application. **UC and CSU do NOT require that a transcript be sent** from the school until after a student has been accepted and has chosen to attend; however, the applicant must be very careful to report all grades accurately or risk loss of acceptance. **Some CSU's & UC's may request a transcript after they receive your application. If they ask you, be sure to send them your transcript.***

### SAT I and SAT II

Register online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

TEST DATE	REGULAR REGISTRATION	LATE REGISTRATION
OCTOBER 9, 2010	SEPT. 10, 2010	SEPTEMBER 24, 2010
NOVEMBER 6, 2010	OCTOBER 8, 2010	OCTOBER 22, 2010
DECEMBER 4, 2010	NOVEMBER 5, 2010	NOVEMBER 19, 2010
JANUARY 22, 2011	DECEMBER 23, 2010	JANUARY 7, 2011
MARCH 12, 2011*	FEBRUARY 22, 2011	FEBRUARY 25, 2011
MAY 7, 2011	APRIL 8, 2011	APRIL 22, 2011
JUNE 4, 2011	MAY 6, 2011	MAY 20, 2011

\*SAT REASONING ONLY, SUBJECT TESTS NOT OFFERED IN MARCH

### ACT

Register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

TEST DATE	REGULAR REGISTRATION	LATE REGISTRATION
SEPTEMBER 11, 2010	AUGUST 6, 2010	AUGUST 20, 2010
OCTOBER 23, 2010	SEPT. 17, 2010	OCTOBER 1, 2010
DECEMBER 11, 2010	NOV. 5, 2010	NOVEMBER 19, 2010
FEBRUARY 12, 2011	JANUARY 7, 2011	JANUARY 21, 2011
APRIL 9, 2011	MARCH 4, 2011	MARCH 18, 2011
JUNE 11, 2011	MAY 6, 2011	MAY 20, 2011

Be aware.....If you miss the regular deadline, you can register during the late period. However, you must pay an additional non-refundable late fee. Also, the ACT is given locally at Novato High School in September, October, December, April and June. It's available at San Francisco State and other Bay Area locations for the February test.

**Redwood's School Code Number is: 051-361**

**UC/CSU Application Completion Workshops-**

Paula Vantrease will be available in the computer lab after school to assist students with their applications on the following dates. Please bring a copy of your transcript to work off of.

University of California	Tuesday, October 12, 2010	3:15 to 4:00	Computer Lab 182
California State University	Wednesday, October 13, 2010	3:15 to 4:00	Computer Lab 182

# WEB SITES

**Tam District site** with links: [www.tamdistrict.org/students/counseling/links.htm](http://www.tamdistrict.org/students/counseling/links.htm)

Redwood web site: [www.redwood.org](http://www.redwood.org)

***College Choice and Applications***

<a href="http://ucop.edu/pathways">ucop.edu/pathways</a>	• quick “in” to the UC system – Campuses
<a href="http://universityofcalifornia.edu/apply">universityofcalifornia.edu/apply</a>	• link to UC application
<a href="http://calstate.edu">calstate.edu</a>	• quick “in” to the Cal state system
<a href="http://csumentor.edu">csumentor.edu</a>	• CSU application and information site
<a href="http://californiacolleges.edu">californiacolleges.edu</a>	• California College Explorer
<a href="http://aiccu.edu">aiccu.edu</a>	• California Private & Independent Colleges
<a href="http://cccco.edu">cccco.edu</a>	• link to California Community Colleges
<a href="http://assist.org">assist.org</a>	• Community College to UC and CSU Transfer Information
<a href="http://commonapp.org">commonapp.org</a>	• Common Application on-line
<a href="http://Connectedu.net">Connectedu.net</a>	• communication to students, college search
<a href="http://princetonreview.com">princetonreview.com</a>	• from Princeton Review; comprehensive • easy to use

***Scholarships and Financial Aid***

<a href="http://finaid.org">finaid.org</a>	• Financial aid information page; estimators; find scams
<a href="http://csac.ca.gov">csac.ca.gov</a>	• CA Student Aid Commission; Financial Aid Information
<a href="http://fastweb.com">fastweb.com</a>	• Very good scholarship search
<a href="http://Marineducationfund.org">Marineducationfund.org</a>	• Marin Education Fund; links to other sites
<a href="http://Wiche.edu/wue">Wiche.edu/wue</a>	• Western Undergraduate Exchange

***Testing and Other Websites***

<a href="http://collegeboard.com">collegeboard.com</a>	• <b>Everything about the SAT</b> – and much more, AP, etc
<a href="http://actstudent.org">actstudent.org</a>	• <b>Everything about the ACT</b>
<a href="http://number2.com">number2.com</a>	• SAT and ACT prep and drills
<a href="http://ncaastudent.org">ncaastudent.org</a>	• Athletic information
<a href="http://bridges.com">bridges.com</a>	• User name is 0010077, password is giants • A career information website which links to planning and college sites
"What can I do with this major/degree" Super! <a href="http://www.gustavus.edu/careercenter/planning/majors">www.gustavus.edu/careercenter/planning/majors</a>	

