



Welcome to the February edition of the 2012/2013 monthly e-communication from Valencia High School. Don't forget about the school's counseling website at www.valencivikings.com/counseling and the school's general website at www.valencivikings.com where you can find updated information on a daily basis.

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Santa Clarita Valley Scholarships

If your senior student is planning on continuing his/her education after graduation, he/she should come and pick up a SCV Scholarship application NOW! There will be at least 10 scholarships given out to Valencia High School Seniors. The scholarships are from \$400 - \$4000. The deadline to turn in the application is due in two days, February 3rd. Don't miss out on this opportunity. Pick up an application in the Scholarship File Drawer in the Counseling Office.

CSU Placement Tests

Did you know that less than half of incoming college freshman pass both of the California State University (CSU) placements tests, the ELM and the EPT? If your senior student is heading to a CSU in the fall and doesn't pass the ELM and/or the EPT, the alternative is required summer remediation, which can cost upwards of \$5000 and doesn't award college credit. The Valencia High School counseling office, in conjunction with Eureka Review, is offering an ELM/EPT review Boot Camp to help your student pass both exams by teaching strategies, reducing testing anxiety, and building her/her confidence. The Boot camp will take place on Tuesday February 7th and Thursday, February 9th from 3:15 until 6:15. The price is \$75, and seniors can sign up in the counseling office by February 3rd.

ACT Practice Exam and Workshop

Experience an ACT exam without the pressure of taking an "official" test! This event, in conjunction with Kaplan Test Prep, includes a practice ACT Exam on Saturday, February 11th from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm and a Results Analysis Workshop on Wednesday, February 22nd from 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm. The cost is \$10 (cash only), and students can sign up in the counseling office.

College Visitation Field Trip

Sophomores and juniors with a 3.5 GPA or higher and other additional requirements are welcome to sign up for our college visitation to University of Southern California (USC). Trip visitation includes a scheduled campus tour and presentation. The trip will be on Wednesday, February 22nd from 7:45 am until approximately 3:30 pm. Please inquire and sign up in the counseling office. Limited spots are available. The cost is \$20 per student to cover transportation costs.

Senior Financial Aid Information

Senior students heading to post-secondary education should have applied for, or be currently applying for, financial aid via the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) website at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Once the application is submitted, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). Review the SAR to make sure all the information is correct. The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) appears on the top of the SAR. The EFC is the amount of money that the federal government has determined that you and your family can contribute toward the cost of your child's college education. Eligibility for need-based aid is based on the difference between what the family can pay and the cost of attending the college or university. The EFC is calculated by a standard formula,



applied to all financial aid applicants nationwide, and takes into consideration all of the information you provided on the FAFSA. Your EFC is the same for all colleges.

California Grant (Cal Grant)

After your student's FAFSA has been submitted, he/she can be considered for a California Grant (Cal Grant). This year, ALL seniors were submitted for a Cal Grant electronically, so **students do not need to apply individually or fill out any paperwork.** Information regarding the Cal Grants are found at <http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=105>. To find out the status of your Cal Grant, AFTER you have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you can go online and check the status of your Cal Grant application by logging onto <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov> and creating an account. This secure site will let you view the status of your Cal Grant application, update your address, view payment history or tell us you're changing your school.

2011 AP Exams

Students currently taking AP courses need to begin thinking about and preparing for the 2012 AP Exams. AP teachers will be distributing information and payment envelopes to their students in February regarding how to sign up and pay for the exams. Each AP exam will cost \$87, and payments will be accepted in the ASB office until the end of February.

SAT Workshop

Valencia High School and The Princeton Review are offering an SAT Workshop on Saturday and Sunday, March 3rd and 4th at VHS. Designed as a basic introduction to the major principles tested on the SAT, this two-day program is ideal for those students who want to do a quick overview of the SAT before the March 10th SAT administration. In this workshop, students will learn valuable information about the SAT as well as some of the Princeton Review's famous strategic test-taking tips. In addition, students will take a practice SAT and receive The Princeton Review's famous *Cracking the SAT* book, complete with practice problems and test-taking strategies. Cost is \$100 per student, and students must sign up in the counseling office before February 29th. This is an especially great workshop for junior students, as the March SAT exam date is the most popular date for junior students to begin their official SAT testing.

College Transcript Requests

Senior students who need their official high school transcripts mailed to any college(s) should visit the VHS registrar's office in person to fill out a transcript request form. Any request that is made in person with the correct form will be mailed within 24 hours to the requested college.

2011/2012 Course Selection

The VHS counselors will be meeting with all current 9th, 10th and 11th grade students during February and March to discuss and prepare course requests for the 2012/2013 school year. These students will be given a copy of the registration paper and will be asked to bring it home and discuss and fill it out with their parents/guardians.



GENERAL INFORMATION

CSF Applications

California Scholarship Federation (CSF) applications are due no later than the end of lunch on Friday, February 3rd to Ms. Henry in room 505. (Students must re-apply for CSF every eligible semester.) Applications must be turned in by the student, in person. Applications are available in the counseling office, on the window of room 505, and on the school website under the club page for CSF. Students should read all directions carefully, and they may ask questions in room 505.

English Language Acquisition (ELA)

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS OF ENGLISH LEARNERS!!! There will be an English Learners Advisory Committee meeting on February 15th at 10:15 am in room 520. This will include a representative from the Equal Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) program at College of the Canyons. We encourage all English Learners and their parents to attend.

REUNIÓN PARA EL CONSEJO ESTUDIANTIL BILINGÜE el 15 de febrero del 2012 en el salón 520 a las 10:15 de la mañana.

California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

On March 13th and 14th, the California High School Exit Exam will be given to all 10th graders, and all 11th and 12th graders who have not yet taken or passed both portions of the exam. The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) is a graduation requirement that assesses skills on the California Content Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. Students are required to pass both portions of the exam to receive a high school diploma. Please try to have your students at school on March 13th and 14th to take the exam. They must bring #2 pencils and their ID cards. As always, students will have better results on exams if they have a balanced breakfast the day of the exam and have received a good night's sleep the night before an exam.

CAHSEE Bell Schedule

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

| Period | Start | End |
|--------|------------|----------|
| Per. 1 | 7:00 AM - | 7:53 AM |
| Test | 8:00 AM - | 11:00 AM |
| Break | 11:00 AM - | 11:15 AM |
| Per. 2 | 11:21 AM - | 12:15 PM |
| Lunch | 12:15 PM - | 1:00 PM |
| Per. 4 | 1:06 PM - | 2:00 PM |
| Per. 6 | 2:06 PM - | 3:00 PM |

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

| Period | Start | End |
|--------|------------|----------|
| Per. 1 | 7:00 AM - | 7:53 AM |
| Test | 8:00 AM - | 11:00 AM |
| Break | 11:00 AM - | 11:15 AM |
| Per. 3 | 11:21 AM - | 12:15 PM |
| Lunch | 12:15 PM - | 1:00 PM |
| Per. 5 | 1:06 PM - | 2:00 PM |
| Per. 7 | 2:06 PM - | 3:00 PM |



VHS Drama Festival

Valencia High School Drama is proud to announce that they are sponsoring the Hart District Theatre Festival in the Valencia Theatre this semester. All of the six major high schools in the district will be competing in large group comedy, drama, and Shakespeare scenes. The Festival is on Saturday, February 25th starting at 9am. Audience tickets will be \$5 for an all-day pass. A BBQ lunch will be for sale after the scenes are over around 1pm. The awards ceremony will start around 2pm. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Whelan at SWhelan@hartdistrict.org or by phone at ext. 522.

NHS Food Drive

National Honor Society is holding their annual "Love Your Neighbor" food drive during the month of February to benefit the Domestic Violence Center, the Food Pantry, and the Animal Shelter. If you would like to make donations, they may be delivered between February 28th and March 1st to room 505, or contact your local neighborhood Honor Society Member for details. Please consider making a donation for your "neighbors in need" during these challenging times. Thank you!

Geometry Intervention/Tutoring

Students who are in any level of geometry are invited to attend the after-school geometry intervention program. This after-school program is available every Monday and Wednesday from 3:00 to 4:30 in room 824 (not offered on minimum days). This is a great opportunity for students to receive extra assistance with any issues relating to their geometry class. Attendance is voluntary, however, we encourage students to attend as often as possible.

After-School Intervention for English Learners

Students whose primary language is one other than English are invited to attend the Valencia High School intervention program for English Learners. This after-school program is available every Wednesday and Thursday from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm in room 520. This is a great opportunity for students to receive extra assistance with any issues relating to their classes. Attendance is voluntary, however, we encourage students to attend as often as possible.

Spanish Tutoring

Spanish Tutoring is available everyday at lunch. For help, please visit the following classrooms on the following days:

- Monday - Mrs. Arias - 922
- Tuesday - Mrs. Hernandez-Foster - 940
- Wednesday - Ms. Hayes - 924
- Thursday - Ms. Villalvazo - 937
- Friday - Mrs. Macias - 518

Open Library

Don't forget to encourage your student to attend Open Library every Wednesday and Thursday from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm to work on homework and get help from both teachers and peer tutors.

Parent Contact Information

Please check your personal/family contact information in the Infinite Campus parent portal. If anything needs changing or updating, please either update the information on the portal or contact the registrar, Karen Wiederhold, by email at kwiederhold@hartdistrict.org or by phone at 661-294-1188, ext. 414. Teachers and



administrative assistants have been trying to call phone numbers that are disconnected or out of service. While it may seem like a simple oversight, it could be a serious problem in a real emergency if the school needs to contact you for some urgent reason.

Junior Job Shadow

This semester your junior student will be presented with a unique Job Shadow opportunity. The object of job shadowing is to experience a new profession or find an occupation that is NOT familiar. Juniors should be shadowing professions that are a new and different experience for them. Juniors will discover something they may be good at, new talents, meet people and begin to “Network,” explore what types of careers are “out there,” and career requirements. Valencia High School’s Junior Job Shadow is a mandatory assignment and a way for our juniors to start making wise career choices. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Wilson at 661-294-1188 x 101.

Valencia High School Prom 2012

The 2012 Valencia High School Prom will be held at Santa Anita Park from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am on Saturday, April 14th. This five-hour event will host one of the best DJ's in California, casino games, gourmet buffet dinner, unlimited refreshments, entertainment, and more. All juniors and seniors are invited to attend! Prom tickets are being offered at a discount price of \$119 per person with ASB Card and \$129 per person without ASB Card. Don't miss out on this amazing limited time offer! Special SALE ticket sales will take place on March 5 and March 6 during brunch and lunch! Prom packets are available in the ASB Office! Pick one up today! See below for pricing!

| <u>Prom Ticket Single</u> | <u>w/ ASB</u> | <u>w/o ASB</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| March 5 & 6 - SALE | \$119 | \$129 |
| March 12 - March 16 | \$135 | \$145 |
| March 19 - March 23 | \$145 | \$155 |
| March 26 - March 30 | \$155 | \$165 |
| April 9 - April 11 | \$165 | \$175 |