**Planning for College & Technical School**

**Important Things to Remember During Your Senior Year:**
- Take challenging classes (science, math, IB/AP classes, Running Start classes at YVCC)
- Try different electives (at your school or YVTech)
- Stay involved in sports, clubs and the community
- Don’t miss deadlines (Senior Project, High School & Beyond Plan, Scholarships, College Admissions, Financial Aid, etc!)

**ACT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Given @ West Valley High School</th>
<th>Vs. (for 4 year schools only)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ Subjects Tested: English, Math, Reading, Science (+ optional Writing)</td>
<td>★ Subjects Tested: Critical Reading, Math, Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Accepted nationally</td>
<td>★ Accepted nationally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Curriculum-based: tests knowledge you've acquired through subjects taught in high school. It measures your readiness for college.</td>
<td>★ Reasoning based: measures critical thinking skills students need for academic success in college; allows students to demonstrate their analytical &amp; problem-solving abilities regardless of formal instruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ No penalty for incorrect answers</td>
<td>★ Penalty for incorrect answers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ All multiple-choice</td>
<td>★ Math grid-ins (student writes in answer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Basic Fee: $34.00</td>
<td>★ Basic Fee: $49.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Writing Essay: Optional (add $15.50)</td>
<td>★ Writing Essay: Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Total Test Time: 2 hours 55 minutes (+ the optional writing test)</td>
<td>★ Total Test Time: 3 hours 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Perfect score: 36</td>
<td>★ Perfect score: 2400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Register online @ <a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a></td>
<td>★ Register Online @ <a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a></td>
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**SAT**

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<td>★ Subjects Tested: Critical Reading, Math, Writing</td>
<td>★ Accepted nationally</td>
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<td>★ Basic Fee: $49.00</td>
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**ASVAB**

(Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery)
- Entrance test to enlist in the US Military
- Covers eight areas including science, word knowledge, mathematics, and mechanical comprehension.
- Given at the high schools in February
- Practice tests available @ www.Military.com

**COMPASS Test**

(For 2 Year Schools only)
- Evaluates reading, math & writing skills for placement in college classes
- Untimed test (about 3 hours long)
- Available @ YVCC ($15.75)
- Practice tests available @ www.act.org/compass

**Timeline**

**SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER**
- Take or Retake SAT/ACT (for 4 year schools)
- Request Recommendation letters
- Apply for scholarships
- Visit Colleges
- Start college applications
- Check with counselor if you are on-track for graduation

**DECEMBER – FEBRUARY**
- Submit College Applications
- Complete the FAFSA
- *must be in by 2/1 for College Bound Scholarship Students*
- Apply for Scholarships

**MARCH-JUNE**
- Take the Compass test (for 2 year schools)
- Take the ASVAB test (for military entrance)
- accept financial aid & admissions offers
- Apply for Scholarships

**Tips For Parents:**
- Listen to your child (their goals, dreams, fears)
- Tell your child about your expectations (regarding grades, going to college, etc)
- Check your child’s grades often using Skyward Family Access
- Keep in touch with your child’s counselor and teachers
- Make sure your child pays their fines! If your child has fines, they cannot get their transcript, graduation tickets or diploma!

**Paying for College**
- Talk honestly as a family about how you will pay for college
- Save your money (from your job, allowance, gifts, etc)
- Apply for scholarships
- Apply for federal student aid using the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
  * Must be a US citizen or eligible non-citizen with a valid social security number
  * must be registered for Selective Services (males only)
- Receive financial aid packages from schools where you are accepted (grants, scholarships, work study and/or loans)

**The FAFSA Process:**
- Fill out the online form beginning January 1st using parent & student tax information submitted last spring @ www.fafsa.ed.gov (DO NOT wait until you file your 2011 taxes!)
- Make sure you meet deadlines (each college is different) *College Bound Scholarship students must submit FAFSA online by 2/1! *
- Receive financial aid packages from schools where you are accepted (grants, scholarships, work study and/or loans)

**To get scholarships...**
- You must apply all year long!
- Be involved at school (clubs, sports) and in the community (clubs, sports, church, work, volunteering, etc)
- Use search engines like thewashboard.org & fastweb.com
- Go to the Counseling Center often for updates (bulletin boards, paper bulletins, school website)

**Running Start**

Students take classes (part-time or full-time) for both high school and college credit at YVCC

**The Process:**
- Fill out an application from the website (www.yvcc.edu) or your counselor.
- Take the Compass test @ YVCC (schedule an appy. @ 574-4578, $15.75 test fee)
- After you meet Compass test score requirements, meet with your school counselor
- Questions? Contact Skyler Field @ sfield@yvcc.edu or 574-4971