



COMPACT
for
SUCCESS
Newsletter



A partnership between Sweetwater District and San Diego State University providing a guarantee of admission upon completion of the following benchmarks:

- *Maintain Residency in SUHSD grades 9-12*
- *Achieve a 3.0 CSU GPA or Greater*
- *Complete College Entrance Requirements (a-g courses)*
- *Take SAT Reasoning or ACT College Admission Exam*
- *Satisfy CSU Placement Exams:*
ELM - Entry Level Math
EPT - English Placement Test

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to high school--an exciting and memorable time for students. The college entrance requirements begin as early as 9th grade, these are your core subjects: English, Math, History, Science, Foreign Language and Fine Arts. It is our mission to prepare all students for college and the world of work. The younger the students are when we expect this of them the better.

Through our partnership with San Diego State University, we have established many activities which inform, motivate and prepare students for college admission and life as adults. In this newsletter we hope you find useful information about the academic resources and related support available at your child's school. You will be the best "coach" your child can have as you become familiar with all the requirements toward graduation and college preparatory coursework.

The partnership enables students to gain admission to San Diego State University upon completion of all benchmarks. We encourage parents and students to participate in **Compact** activities to carefully monitor a student's progress along the way. Strive to earn A's and B's in all academic subjects! It is vital that students place themselves at the highest competitive level possible and this starts with a strong grade point average (GPA). Strive to achieve a 3.65 or higher GPA.

Mayra Gutierrez, SUHSD Director

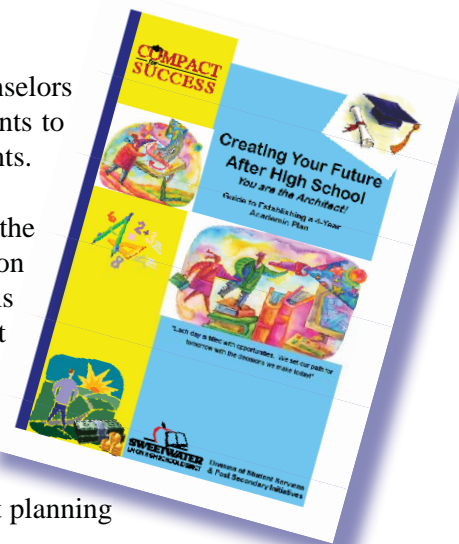
Lou Murillo, SDSU Director

**Establishment of a 4-Year Plan
Encompassing Post-Secondary Options**

During the first semester of the 9th grade, counselors coordinate planning sessions with students and parents to create individual four-year academic plans for students.

The four-year plan outlines the academic path the student is to follow through high school based upon the families desired post-secondary goals. The plan is revisited each year during registration, ensuring that student performance is aligned to goals set by the plan. Modifications and adjustments are made as needed.

Parents are encouraged to be a part of this important planning session.



COLLEGE EXPO - CAREER EXPLORATION OPPORTUNITY

College Expo

An opportunity to explore Careers and San Diego County College Programs to be hosted by SDSU

Saturday, March 19, 2011

Ninth grade is a year to begin exploring majors, careers and colleges. This is a great opportunity for students to participate and receive information about options available at all college systems within San Diego County. A special emphasis will be placed upon career exploration.

Mark the date on your calendar as a family event you do not want to miss!



COMPACT for SUCCESS



9th Grade Check List

- ✓ Review courses to ensure they meet four-year college/university requirements, community college or technical college.
- ✓ See your school counselor and develop a four year plan toward graduation and post-secondary goals.
- ✓ Set goals for success in your classes (identify the grades you wish to seek) and set personal goals as well.
- ✓ Get involved in extra-curricular activities, sports and/or volunteer work.
- ✓ Visit the school's career center and begin investigating college and career resources.
- ✓ Attend a career day, college fair, or visit a college campus.
- ✓ Listen to speakers on career areas of your interest.
- ✓ Talk with your parents about your post-high school plans.
- ✓ Meet with your school counselor in the spring to schedule your courses for sophomore year.
- ✓ Begin developing your portfolio for college or a job.

UNDERSTANDING A-G CURRICULUM

College admission is gained through the completion of a set of preparatory courses commonly referred to as the "a-g" curriculum. These courses are offered at all high schools and are available at various levels some receiving added weighted point in reward of attempting higher a rigor (noted by an asterisk):

- Regular
- Accelerated
- Honors*
- Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate*

The set of courses must all be completed, a CSU gpa is calculated as a result of grades earned in these courses. They begin in the 9th grade.

a-g Courses	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
A		World History	US History	Government
B	English 9	English 10	English 11	English 12
C	Algebra	Geometry	Intermediate Algebra	Recommended
D		Biology	Chemistry/Physics	Recommended
E	Foreign Language	Foreign Language	Recommended	
F	Fine Arts			
G	World Geography			

AVID - A System of Support

AVID targets students in the academic middle — B, C, and even D students — who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These are typically students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential, are the first in their families to attend college or are under-represented students.



AVID places these students on the college track by providing them with acceleration instead of remediation. The elective AVID class is driven by the **WICR** method, which stands for **w**riting, **i**nquiry, **c**ollaboration, and **r**eading and provides students the opportunity to learn organizational and study skills, work on developing their critical thinking and ability to ask probing questions, get academic help from peers and college tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable.

Sweetwater Union High School District Board of Trustees

Arlie N. Ricasa, President - Bertha López, Vice-President
Jim Cartmill - Member, Pearl Quiñones - Member, Greg R. Sandoval - Member

Superintendent
Dr. Jesús M. Gandara

Post Secondary Initiatives - Compact for Success

Mayra Gutierrez, Director SUHSD
Hilda Bender, District Counselor SUHSD
Liz Hernandez, Senior Administrative Assistant (619) 600-3315
Dr. Lou Murillo, Director SDSU
Lisa Santa Cruz, Program Coordinator SDSU (619) 594-1730

