

Counseling Services – *Mrs. Rya Carpenter*

10th, 11th and 12th grade students are encouraged to apply for CSF and NHS. California Scholarship Federation (CSF) is available to students with a minimum 3.5 GPA from the fall semester. National Honor Society (NHS) is available to students with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.75. For continued participation, students must meet all requirements, dues and paperwork deadlines each semester. The deadline is January 18 at 3:30pm. More details are available at www.bdhsmultimedia.org/csf---nhs.html. The applications are available in the College and Career Center. They are also online: www.bdhsmultimedia.org/application-forms.html.

Parents of Sophomores and Juniors: On Monday, January 7, you are invited to join us for a Scores Analysis session. At this event, we'll have an expert from Tutors Across America on hand to help families interpret scores from the PSAT and the Mock ACT. Event starts at 5:00pm in the Library.

Following this program, we will have a presentation for all 11th grade parents. Presenters include Admission Counselors from UCSB, CSU Channel Islands and Westmont College. Together, we will review the admissions process for public universities in California and private colleges/universities around the country. Event starts at 6:00pm in the Library.

Then, at 7:15pm in the Library we will have an Admissions Presentation from Columbia University. Anyone is welcome to attend!

Excerpt continued...**College Admission from Application to Acceptance, Step by Step** by Robin Mamlet and Christine Vandavelde

“9 Things Admission Officers Look for in an Application

9. True Distinction. It doesn't happen often, but once in a while a student really stands above the crowd in some pursuit. Some students are accomplished musicians, some have distinguished themselves in state or national math or science competitions, some have won writing prizes or have had material published, some have achieved great feats in one or another sport. If you're lucky enough to be one of these, make sure your accomplishment rises in high relief in your application: a mention in your personal essay or answer to some question, something you highlight and develop in an interview, or something you ask a teacher or high school counselor to incorporate into their letter. Whatever the case, make sure that the reader (who might have a stack of 100 applications to slog his or her way through) notices your special distinction. Don't be

overly modest here...If you're applying for admission to an ultra-selective national university, you'll have your best shot if one or other of your achievements has national standing...Bonus Tip: You're not going to believe this, but some universities tell you on their website what they're looking for at their school. Do a Google search for what [name of university] looks for, and see what comes up. Then tailor your application accordingly. For two especially detailed and candid examples see <http://admissions.cornell.edu/apply/what-cornell-looks> and <https://college.harvard.edu/admissions/application-process/what-we-look> .”

I personally have a bias toward MIT and their admissions blogs. Here is one last link you may wish to consider reviewing if interested in highly selective institutions: <https://mitadmissions.org/apply/process/what-we-look-for/>.

Sophomore Parents:

Ms. Anderson will be spending some time with your students in January exploring a new program available to them called YouScience which involves aptitude tests, career exploration, and relevant college search information. This program is designed to help students with self-discovery in career and college education paths. If you'd like more information about this program, please feel free to explore the following link (you may need to copy and paste the link): <https://www.youscience.com/about/>

A follow up to this activity is our Sophomore Academic Planning meeting ***with you and your child***. An email has been sent to all Sophomore parents/guardians to schedule a meeting with you and your child to discuss their academic plans for the next two years at Bishop Diego. Wednesday, January 23rd and Thursday, January 24th has been set aside to meet with families in groups of 4-5 families after school in the library to go over college entrance requirements, graduation requirements, and your child's academic path. Please make sure to check your email for details and available times for these important meetings.

Rya Carpenter
Director of Counseling and Student Services
College Counselor
(805) 967-1266, ext. 104
rcarpenter@bishopdiego.org



Begins on January 14!

**3:15pm - 4:00pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
1:45pm - 4:00pm on Thursday**

After school, second semester, the College and Career Center will be set aside for the "homework club".

This space is meant to provide a quiet and comfortable environment to do homework before heading home. Anyone is welcome to participate.



The homework club teacher is there for supervision and support, not tutoring. However, if you would like to request a peer tutor, please contact Ms. Anderson: janderson@bishopdiego.org.

Homework club does NOT replace office hours. It is just a quiet space to do work. It's pretty straight forward stuff...Do you have homework due soon or something coming up that you want to study for? Join us!

We will take attendance in case a parent wants to know if their student is making use of this resource. If you have questions about homework club, please contact: rcarpenter@bishopdiego.org.

