With the start of second semester, we will be working on necessary schedule changes. Most courses are yearlong, so there will not be a lot of adjustments. The deadline to request a schedule change is January 16 at 3:00pm. See Ms. Anderson with any scheduling questions or to learn more about retaking a class where your student earned a D or F.

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](http://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](http://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.

The week of January 14, sophomores will be introduced to [YouScience Career Aptitude tests](http://www.youscience.com). Concurrently, Ms. Anderson will invite sophomore families to join her for academic and college planning. These sophomore family meetings happen in small groups, with a review of graduation and 4-year college entrance requirements. Each student in attendance will develop
personalized education plans. Please keep an eye out for your invitation from Ms. Anderson. If you don’t hear from her by January 15, please contact her directly in request of an appointment: anderson@bishopdiego.org.

Excerpt continued…College Admission from Application to Acceptance, Step by Step by Robin Mamlet and Christine Vandevelde

“9 Things Admission Officers Look for in an Application

7. Contributions to your community. One of the things you hear admissions officers talking most about is ‘building’ or ‘sculpting’ a class, by which they mean that not only do they want to pick students who they think will succeed academically but also students who will bring a broad variety of skills, interests, and talents to their college community. The main way they have of gauging what you might bring to the community is by seeing what communal experiences you have had in your home community—both high school and the city or town beyond.

Be sure to highlight in your list of extracurricular activities any activities that point beyond yourself to your high school at-large: managing the talent show or coordinating the Bible study group, for example, both involve significant other-directed activity. And any outreach or service projects in your city, town, or place of worship can help establish that at college, too, you’ll play a role in their community (rather than being holed up in the library 24/7). If, for example, you’ve worked in a soup kitchen, or helped build houses for poor families, or worked to clean up a town after a tornado, be sure to showcase your contributions.

8. Recommendations that sing. Teacher recommendations address many desirable characteristics, including academic promise, willingness to accept challenge, intellectual vitality, writing skills, and many others. Accordingly, you should seek out recommenders who know you well and from classes where you were successful (also, if you showed marked growth or improvement in some course, this should be considered, too). Chances are those
teachers will sing your praises and help to build the background characteristics we’ve listed that will add to the strength of your application."

Thinking ahead, colleges will generally state they prefer one letter of recommendation from a school counselor and one recommendation from a teacher. Highly selective colleges tend to ask for two teacher letters of recommendation. And, colleges typically express preference that you choose a teacher who has taught you in a core subject area (math, English, history, science or foreign language) from 11th or 12th grade.

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