



---

## LELAND HIGH SCHOOL CAREER CENTER FALL 2009 PARENT NEWSLETTER

---

9-21-09

### LELAND'S COLLEGE AND CAREER EVENTS

**College Match Event:** Leland will offer a College Match Event for students and their parents on **Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>** from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Additional details will be announced later.

**Financial Aid Night** for our seniors and their parents will be held on Tuesday, **January 12<sup>th</sup>** from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the ITC/Library. If you are unable to attend this workshop, information about workshops at other high schools will be available in the Career Center.

**Senior Reminder:** If your Senior is applying to a Private or Independent College/University, please remind them to turn in their letter of recommendation packet by October 2. If they have not picked up their letter of rec packet, now is the time to do so! The packets are in the Career Center or on-line and Mrs. Spindler is happy to answer all of their questions!

### COLLEGE FAIRS

East Side Union High School District will be hosting a **College Night on 10/8 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Independence High School. WACAC College Fair will be held on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** at Mission College. The East Side College Fair will include over 100 colleges and the WACAC Fair will have around 140 colleges. We encourage students and parents to take advantage of these excellent opportunities to meet with representatives from colleges, universities, and military academies.

### COLLEGE INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

College Application Packets with application tips and UC and CSU information will be available on October 2<sup>nd</sup> for seniors in the Career Center. The Career Center offers many application workshops to our seniors. CSU and UC application deadline is 11/30. Independent/Private College deadlines vary. California has one of the best public college systems in the country. Every year, it becomes more competitive for available spaces. The California Budget has impacted the number of students the public universities admit. We are encouraging everyone to apply broadly considering all post secondary options including independent colleges and out of state colleges, and community colleges. Seniors planning on enrolling at a community college will begin the process next spring.

### TESTING INFORMATION

#### SAT/ACT TESTING INFO

Students may obtain SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject, and ACT registration information in the Career Center or online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) or [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Colleges will accept both the SAT Reasoning or ACT and will take their best score from one seating. For the ACT, many colleges (including UC) also require the Optional Writing Test. Most colleges will not accept test scores from seniors after the December testing dates. However, some CSU's (San Jose State) require testing completed by November. UC's and some private colleges also require SAT Subject Tests. UC requires two SAT Subject Tests in different subjects areas (if you take Math, it must be Math 2). Test dates are available on the Career Center Page at [lelandhigh.org](http://lelandhigh.org). Seniors are responsible for meeting deadlines and officially sending test scores to each college. Students requesting fee waivers for these tests need to see Mrs. Spindler in the Career Center.

#### PSAT INFORMATION

Leland will be offering the PSAT on Wednesday, **October 14<sup>h</sup> at 8 a.m.** The district will pay for all juniors to take the test and they **do not** need to register. Because the PSAT is geared for juniors, we do not encourage sophomores to take it. If a sophomore is in Algebra II they may consider taking it for practice. We will not allow freshmen take the PSAT. \*Sophomores may register for the PSAT during school and directly after school on the following days ONLY: Tuesday, October 6 and Thursday, October 8. The cost is \$15. We accept cash or checks which may be made payable to "Leland High School" with PSAT in the memo line. PSAT results will be distributed to students in their social science class in late December. Revolution Test Prep will offer an informational meeting about understanding the PSAT results to students and parents in early January.

#### TEST PREP INFO

The Career Center has information about test prep resources and courses, along with many testing books available for check out. E Group Learning and Revolution Prep offer classes for a fee at Leland. Information is available at: [egrouplearning.com](http://egrouplearning.com) or [revolutionprep.com](http://revolutionprep.com). Revolution offers financial aid to students who qualify. Call 877-REV-PREP (877-738-7737) for an application.

## **GET IN 2 COLLEGE PROGRAM**

Get In 2 College is a wonderful resource for students and parents that is **only** available at the **Career Center Website at [lelandhigh.org](http://lelandhigh.org)**. This program includes a College Admission Handbook, Private Subscriber Site, Consolidated Page of Links, Mini-Manuals and Power Points. The 43 page College Admission Handbook has comprehensive information about the admissions process. We feel this Handbook is a “must read” for our students and parents. Students may obtain a copy of the Handbook in the Career Center. The private website has downloadable documents including grade level calendars and check lists, campus visits, financing college, college comparison, SAT/ACT Testing, etc. The consolidated page of over 600 helpful links is sorted by category. Some topics in the Mini-Manuals include: Getting Organized for College, College Visits, Common Application, Effective Essays, Standardized Testing, and Financial Aid/Scholarships. We strongly encourage you to use this great program and take advantage of the wealth of information in the Handbook and at this site. This program should be updated with the 09-10 resources by the end of September.

## **COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER INFORMATION**

Leland offers a four-year comprehensive career/college guidance program. Our program is integrated directly into the student’s course work. There are appropriate career/college guidance activities for each grade level. Seniors complete the unit in the fall in their Economics or American Government class. Juniors complete the unit in their English Class in February. Sophomores complete the unit in November in their history class. Freshmen complete the unit in December or January in their history class. The students will also complete a computer activity during this unit using the following online programs: Get In 2 College, Choices Explorer, Choices Planner, and Prep HQ.

LHS has two comprehensive career/college guidance computer programs that are Internet based that can be accessed at home and school and can be used to research careers, colleges, financial aid and many other topics. Parents and students can set up an account with these excellent programs using any computer with Internet access. Instructions for parents to access Choices Planner and Choices Explorer are available at the Career Center Web Site. At this site is an online personality assessment that we have sophomores complete “Do What You Are”. Also at this site is a Learning Styles Indicator that the freshmen take. If your student has not taken the Learning Styles Indicator, encourage them to do so by following the instructions at the Career Center Web Site. This will provide a helpful report that can help the student “study smarter”. Parents are encouraged to take advantage of the excellent resources by clicking on the Parent Tab. Parents can use all of these programs as well.

Leland also has students use a program called Prep HQ. Parents can only access Prep HQ through their students’ account (info about Prep HQ will be added to the Career Center Site shortly). Prep HQ allows Leland to send out e-mail messages to students and parents. Your student should be receiving messages from Mrs. Albers and Mrs. Spindler regarding upcoming college visits and workshops if they are registered with Prep HQ.

Leland’s Career Center has excellent college and career resources for parents and students. We encourage students and parents to use the computer guidance programs and Get In 2 College throughout the year to research careers, majors, colleges, and financial aid.

Leland’s Career Center is open Monday through Friday during school and after school hours to 4:00pm. Mrs. Spindler is substituting in the Career Center temporarily. You may reach Joan Albers or Barbara Spindler in the Career Center at 535-6290 x 241. Mark McClure is our Academic Counselor who works in the Main Office. Mr. McClure is currently working with credit deficient seniors.

## **FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION**

Leland will offer a **Financial Aid Night for seniors and their parents on January 12th at 6:30 p.m in our ITC/Media Center**. The FAFSA is the form that needs to be submitted for any senior applying for federal, state and institutional aid. Many schools require the FAFSA for merit scholarships as well. The FAFSA will be available in January. If you are planning on submitting the FAFSA online, you will need to request a PIN in advance, one for a parent and one for your student, at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov). Students need to be aware of all required forms and deadlines. Information is available in the Career Center.

Independent/private colleges require additional financial aid forms. Many colleges require the **CSS Financial Aid Profile** which can be accessed at [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com).

Most colleges offer merit scholarships, and many have programs for funding underrepresented minority and economically disadvantaged students.

If your senior is applying for California’s financial aid, Cal Grant, they must submit the FAFSA and GPA Verification Form by March 2.

If you would like to find out how much you will be expected to contribute for your child’s college education, Financial Aid Calculators are available at [fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://fafsa4caster.ed.gov), [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com) or [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org).

**Financial Aid websites:** [finaid.org](http://finaid.org), [csac.ca.gov](http://csac.ca.gov), [salliemae.com](http://salliemae.com), [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov), [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org).

**Scams:** Parents and students need to be aware of **scholarship scams**, fraudulent scholarship search services, and fraudulent financial aid seminars. You should not have to pay to apply for a scholarship. Information is available in the Career Center.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Leland’s **Scholarship Bulletin** is posted in the Career Center, Social Science, and English classrooms. This bulletin has information about many scholarship opportunities for high school students in grades 9-12 and is updated monthly. Students may obtain copies of this bulletin and the scholarship applications from the Career Center.

**Scholarship websites:** [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com), [finaid.org](http://finaid.org), [srnexpress.com](http://srnexpress.com), [gocollege.com](http://gocollege.com), [finaid.org](http://finaid.org), [Petersons.com](http://Petersons.com).