



# COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Presented by Edcouch-Elsa HS & the Llano Grande Center



## WHO CAN HELP ME WITH COLLEGE?

Elvira Perez	9th Grade Counselor	College & scholarship awareness	262-4731
Susan Leal	10th Grade Counselor	College & scholarships; Pre-SAT/Act testing	262-4731
Ofelia Gonzalez	11th Grade Counselor	College & scholarship awareness	262-4731
Cyndi Briseno	12th Grade Counselor	College & scholarships; migrant students	262-4731
Lupita Tijerina	GEAR UP Counselor	College awareness with 11th graders	262-4731
Rohny Escareno	SureScore Teacher	ACT/SAT test prep and college advising	802-8877
Joaquin Jasso	PAC Director	College trips and advising	262-4731
Olga Cardoso	Llano Grande	College advising; immigrant students	262-4474
Delia Perez	Llano Grande	College & financial aid advising	262-4474

## WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING?

As a 9th and 10th grader, take challenging classes; get involved in extracurricular or community activities; research colleges; make plans for a summer program or a summer job.

As an 11th grader, write to colleges to request information and applications; register for and take the PACT and/or PSAT; stay involved and develop leadership; participate in a summer program or job; continue challenging yourself with classes.

As a 12th grader, register for and take ACT, SAT and Subject Tests; complete the FAFSA and CSS Profile; apply for scholarships; write personal statements; request letters of recommendation; submit college and financial aid applications.

Get to know your teachers and counselors and form trusting relationships with them.

## LESSONS FROM A HS SENIOR

by Samantha Herrera, EEHS Class of 2010



Senior year passes extremely quickly. It is now December and most applications are due on January 1. The college application process is a tedious one, but not impossible.

During the summer before senior year, I did some research on universities that I was interested in. I looked at many different aspects of these schools and determined whether or not they were a good fit for me, based on the size of the schools, the teacher to student ratio, their academic emphasis and many other factors. It was important for me to find a school where I would be the most comfortable. For example, I want to be at a small school where I can develop close relationships with professors and be able to ask for help.

I also stumbled upon a couple of really neat websites that helped me find scholarships. Zinch.com really emphasized the fact that students are more than an SAT or ACT score. They provide space to share yourself with schools that are looking for people just like you, similar to facebook or myspace. Coppex.com gave me the opportunity to find some very useful scholarships that matched my exact background.

The second step I took was to make a list of the different universities that I was extremely excited about and want to attend. On that list I wrote important information about the colleges such as deadlines for applications of admissions, deadlines for scholarships and their financial cost. As the year strolled along, I worked mainly on the scholarship matches that I found on the website and postponed applications for universities.

It is now early December and I am working on college applications and essays. I also signed up for an account with applytexas.org where I can fill out applications for schools in Texas by doing one common application. I have taken the SAT and ACT and signed up for the necessary subject tests required by some universities. I made sure that my scores were sent to the schools I am really interested in attending by listing those schools on the registration application for each test. I also worked with my counselor to make sure that my transcript is sent to the schools I am applying to.

A very important part of my applications is the essays, I have worked on them very carefully and have gotten more than one person to revise them to make sure they are as good as can be. Write your essay in your style, be who you are and tell a story that you are really passionate about.

I know all of this seems like a lot and it sounds quite stressful, but this process will pay off when you have your diploma. Start early!