



COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

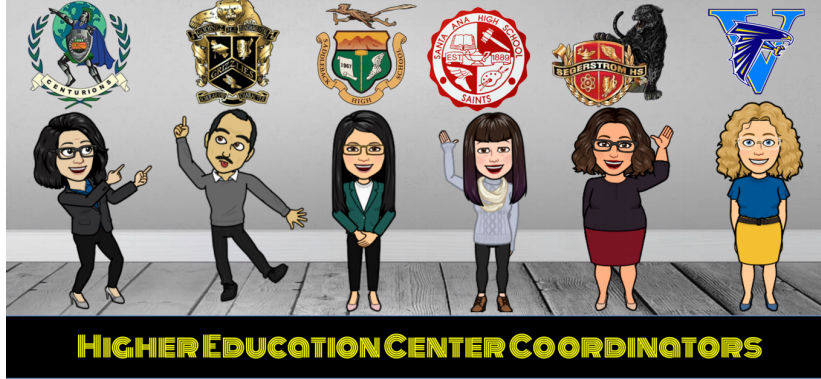
HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER NEWSLETTER



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HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER COORDINATORS

A message from SAUSD...

Dear Students,

There are no adjectives we can use to describe how painful and unnatural this “distance learning” has been for many. Distance learning has presented many challenges for you, your family, and the SAUSD community. When we transitioned to distance learning March 2020, it was new for all of us in so many ways, yet you continued to develop, learn, and grow in new ways.

For many of you, learning at home without the usual structures of school had its benefits. You learned to take breaks when you needed them. You learned how to create a workspace that works best for you. You developed life skills and strategies you’ll need in years to come, like learning to work independently, problem-solving, and goal setting. You have found new ways to focus on your learning, as well as how to connect with friends within your inner circle or even how to establish new networks virtually. These skills, grit, and mindsets will help you thrive as learners. Your empathy skills grew as you learned to read each other’s cues during discussions.

On November 10th, 2020, the Governing Board approved a recommendation for grading expectations and adjustments for the 2020-21 academic year. Our teachers have revisited their grading practices to provide meaningful educational support during this time. Despite the challenges we have endured during this pandemic, we need to continue to tackle this challenge together, attend class daily, get help when needed, and ask questions during synchronous and asynchronous times. Remember this is temporary. We don’t stop learning because we have stopped physically going to school. We all started off unsure and uncertain about distance learning. But in so many ways, you’re stronger because of the new and unexpected skills you’ve gained. While we can’t celebrate your growth and achievements together as we usually would, that doesn’t mean they didn’t happen.

We are SAUSD, stronger together!



**Hang in there students,
we will get through this,
together!
#weareSAUSD
#bettertogether**

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Make sure to click on underlined text, it is linked to other sources, as are some images.

Written by: Alfonso Rivas, MSW, PPSC
School Social Worker
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Why bother? Because it is our duty to ourselves. We may care for others and want to help them, but this is the “put the mask on yourself first” type of setting. We can't be there for others, not fully, when we haven't taken care of ourselves.

Sometimes we need to apply the Golden Rule - treating others the way we would like to be treated - and put a twist to it. We need to treat ourselves the same way we treat our better halves, our best friends, our loved ones. It is an important lesson to learn, to be on your own side of the court, to root for yourself, to be your own cheerleader, rather than your personal bully you carry with you everywhere in your mind. You are worth it after all; don't you think?

Not everyone has the luxury of having a great group of friends. It's tough. We all know the feeling. We may feel lonely, unheard, or misunderstood, but in those moments, YOU must be there for you. Yes, there are others willing to help, whether at home, school, or in your future endeavors, but you must not forget the person always so near, the one that's with you always, anywhere, and anytime, YOU.

We owe it to ourselves to take care of ourselves. It is not selfish. It is self-growth, self-encouragement, self-care, and self-forgiveness. When we think about supporting our loved ones, our brothers and sisters, our family, extended family, and neighbors, your childhood friend, your closest friends, and those you haven't even met yet, to be there for them, you must first be there for you.

You deserve the life you imagine; those hopes and those dreams. They are on the horizon, waiting for you, and there will be plenty of help along the way. We must realize our hopes and dreams require our best selves! A self which we have fed emotionally, physically, mentally; a self that has been loved. This pandemic won't last, tough times rarely do. Tough people, those who persevere and grow, always last.



We Got You!



If you are in need of academic support, check out the FREE online tutoring being offered by each of your after school Extended Learning Programs. Each program also offers social and fun activities. Check out their websites and get involved!

Century HS - [Centurion Club](#)
Godinez FHS - [The Grizzly Lounge](#)
Saddleback HS - [Local Scholar Program](#)
Santa Ana HS - [Halos Program](#)
Segerstrom HS - [After School Jags](#)
Valley HS - [Falcon Club](#)



21st Century Skills

Written by: April Gibbs (HEC at VHS)
Source: EdSurge Newsletter (Jan. 2019)

Going to school online definitely has its benefits and drawbacks. Yet, learning new material and becoming an expert in subject matter continues to be important for your future success. On top of excelling in your academics, it is important to gain skills that will help you as you pursue your career. These skills fall under an umbrella known as 21st Century Skills. They include:

- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Flexibility
- Adaptability
- Initiative
- Self-direction
- Social skills
- Cross-cultural skills
- Productivity
- Accountability
- Leadership
- Responsibility

6 21st Century Skills Employers Want Across Industries

- CRITICAL THINKING** - The ability to reason and analyze information to come up with new solutions to a problem. It's one skill that can't be automated.
- CREATIVITY** - With the constant influx of new products and services, employers need creative minds that can apply these new tools to their product and industry.
- COLLABORATION** - The ability to work with others is a timeless skill, but as processes move faster and become more complex, the ability to understand others, be sensitive to their needs and find a way to work together will be more important than ever.
- COMMUNICATION** - Communicating clearly, either internally or to customers, is a much-desired skill across industries.
- TECHNOLOGY / MEDIA LITERACY** - Being able to understand how to work with the most up-to-date tools is a crucial skill in the constantly changing business landscape. As automated services take on more and more of the grunt work, the ability to speak the language of these tools becomes a necessity for all employees.
- LEADERSHIP** - The ability to interact with other employees, clients and other stakeholders and unite them behind a single purpose is an age-old skill that shows no signs of losing importance.

SOURCES:
<https://www.thebalancecareers.com/top-skills-employers-want-2062481>
<https://www.businessinsider.com/10-skills-employers-will-want-the-most-in-2020-2018-1f10-cognitive-flexibility-1>

EdSurge

There are many ways to improve in each of these areas. The first step is to be aware of your own strengths and weaknesses and to set a goal to work on them over the course of time. It is important to keep in mind that everyone can become better at something they are not comfortable doing if they have the right attitude towards improving. Participating in class, breaking out of your comfort zone, taking on responsibilities at home and with group projects are just a few ways to get better at leadership, communication, organization, collaboration, and initiative. Working online in your classes has forced you to learn adaptability and be more flexible because you are balancing your home environment with your learning environment. Are you consciously making an effort to adjust to these changes and excel with your academics, or have the circumstances gotten the best of you?

Take a look at your current situation and find one thing you can do to improve your effort and effectiveness as a student. The act of seeking out change can pay dividends in the future.

Your Grades Matter!



Your grades matter!!! Financial assistance for college for many SAUSD students will come in the form of a grant from the State of California. A Cal Grant is money for college you don't have to pay back. There are three kinds of Cal Grants — A, B, and C — but you don't have to figure out which one to apply for. Your eligibility will be based on factors such as your GPA and family income. Cal Grants can be used at any University of California, California State University or California Community College, as well as qualifying independent and career colleges or technical schools in California. All SAUSD students are eligible to apply for this important form of financial aid, regardless of your citizenship status.

Applying for the Cal Grant with a financial aid application will start in October of your senior year. Yet, ***qualifying for the Cal Grant takes place during your sophomore and junior year.*** The organization in charge of the Cal Grant, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), **uses your unweighted GPA from 10th & 11th grade.** You have until the summer after junior year to make up failing grades, or unsatisfactory grades, to boost your GPA to a qualifying range. If you can, strive to raise your GPA to a minimum of 3.0 unweighted. If this seems out of reach, at the very least, work to raise your GPA to a minimum of a 2.0 unweighted. The Higher Ed/Counseling team at your high school will help guide you through the process of applying for financial your senior year.

For now, here is a brief overview of the three Cal Grants:

- Cal Grant A requires a minimum unweighted GPA of 3.0. It will help pay for the tuition and fees at a four-year college. As of this fall, Cal Grants are up to \$12,630 at a University of California campus, up to \$5,742 at a California State University campus, and up to \$9,084 at independent colleges.
- Cal Grant B requires a minimum unweighted GPA of 2.0. It provides a living allowance of up to \$1672 at a two- or four-year college.
- Cal Grant C assists with the costs of a technical or career education. It provides up to \$1,904 for books, tools, and equipment, and up to \$2,462 more for tuition and fees at schools other than California Community Colleges.

More information about Cal Grants and award amounts can be found at this link:

<https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/what-are-cal-grant-award-amounts>

Type	Where can you use it?	Requirements	What does it pay for?
Cal Grant A	4-year college	3.0 GPA, low to middle income	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CSU fees...\$5,742• UC fees...\$12,630• Up to \$9,084 for private colleges.
Cal Grant B	CCC or 4-year college	2.0 GPA, low income	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1,672 for the 1st year• \$1,672 + fees for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years
Cal Grant C	CCC or vocational school	No required GPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1,094 at a CCC• Up to \$2,462 at for-profit trade schools

Seniors, your grades from 12th grade will go into next year's Cal Grant GPA. SAUSD will upload your Cal Grant GPA automatically.

FINISH STRONG!