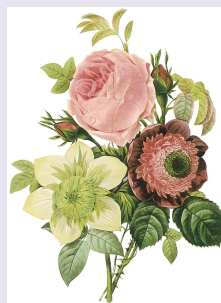


Counseling Corner

April Dates to Remember:

- April 1 - 5 Spring Break
- April 8 WS Summer Internship Application opens
- April 15 CAASPP Testing
- April 26 Black Youth Leadership Conference



It's Autism Acceptance Month.

Applications for the **Home Run Summer Internship** program open **April 8th**. For more information on the Home Run and our programs, please visit wshomerun.org

It's official! The priority FAFSA deadline in CA has been extended to May 2, 2024. See the flyer on the following page.

Save the date for the **Black Youth Leadership Conference on April 26, 2024 on RCHS Campus**. All 7th-12th grade students are welcome. Focus on African American students. This free day long event will inspire students through education, celebration, and team building. Contact Mrs. Clark for details and to RSVP at fclark@wusd.k12.ca.us

NCAA Requesting Final Amateurism Certification: Process Opens to *Eligible Student-Athletes* **April 1**
Students enrolling for the first time at an NCAA school in the fall semester can request their final amateurism certification beginning April 1. Before requesting final amateurism certifications, students must verify that their graduation and enrollment dates in their account are accurate and complete (including payment or fee waiver). The enrollment date must reflect the term they plan to first enroll at any NCAA school. Please review [this resource](#) for additional information on this quick but critical process.

JUNIORS The CAASPP System is designed to give information to teachers, students, and their families about what students know and are able to do. It also indicates whether students are on track to be ready for success in college or career when they graduate from high school. CAASPP Scores in English and Math play a role in whether you meet eligibility requirements or to determine a student's placement in college courses. Examples can include: Seal of Biliteracy, College English Placement, College Math Placement, and admissions decisions.

SENIORS, have you been accepted to a 4year college? If so, please send your counselor a copy of your acceptance letter ASAP. We want to celebrate you!

Sacramento City College Representative on campus during both lunches in the Counseling Office **April 9th and 23rd**. Ask Questions, get help, finish enrollment tasks.

Sac City Success Coaching Appointments April 29th and April 30th. Students who attended the onsite Orientation will be contacted to attend.

RISE CENTER Counselor of the Day - April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mrs. Cramer	Mrs. Ozeroff	Ms. Straessler	Mrs. Clark	Ms. Price

CSAC | CASH FOR COLLEGE

Join our free, online Cash for College webinar to meet financial aid experts who can answer your questions about the **FAFSA, CA Dream Act Application (CADAA)**, or **Chafee Grant for Foster Youth!**



<p>Deadline extended to</p> <p>▶▶ May 2</p>	MARCH	MARCH	APRIL
	<p>26</p> <p>1:30 - 2:45 PM * Non-SSN Contributor Webinar</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 - 11:15 AM * Non-SSN Contributor Webinar</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00 - 7:15 PM Webinar</p>
APRIL	APRIL	APRIL	APRIL
<p>6</p> <p>10:00 - 11:15 AM * Non-SSN Contributor Webinar</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:30 - 6:45 PM * Non-SSN Contributor Webinar</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 - 7:15 PM * Non-SSN Contributor Webinar</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30 - 6:45 PM Webinar</p>
	APRIL	APRIL	MAY
	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 - 11:15 AM * Non-SSN Contributor Webinar</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00 - 7:15 PM Webinar</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:00 - 7:15 PM Webinar</p>



◀ REGISTER TODAY!
[HTTPS://CASTUDENTAID.ORG/C4C](https://castudentaid.org/c4c)

@castudentaid



*This webinar will cover specific issues for California students with Non-SSN Contributors to FAFSA.

West Sacramento Home Run

Our Vision

Through the West Sacramento Home Run, the City of West Sacramento will be a thriving community that benefits children, families and local businesses by providing access to high-quality early learning for all children, opportunities to develop valuable work-readiness skills, and financial assistance for postsecondary education and training.

Home Run Programs

- [Quality Early Learning](#)
- [College Savings Accounts](#)
- [Internships](#)
- [Digital Micro-credentials](#)
- [College Promise](#)
- [Ready, Set, Save!](#)

For more information on the Home Run and our programs, please visit wshomerun.org

PAID INTERNSHIPS

Who Qualifies?

1. All RCHS students who are 16 yrs of age by June 10, 2024
2. Have completed one CTE Course.

Important Dates

- Applications open **April 8th**
- Internships take place **June 10th - August 2nd**

Activity	Description	Documentation Needed	Incentive
Volunteer at Your Child's School or Early Learning Site	Volunteer at your child's school or early learning site.	Have your child's teacher/school or site administrator answer the questions on the activity claim form and upload photo of you volunteering.	\$25 per 10 volunteer hours, maximum of \$50 per year
Special Incentive	Special incentives are offered occasionally, for a limited time. Watch Home Run social media for details. Restrictions may apply.	Required documentation may vary and will be described with the Special Incentive announcement.	Amounts may vary and will be described with the Special Incentive announcement.
Parenting Workshop	Attend a one-time or multi-part parenting workshop.	Answer the questions on the activity claim form and upload photo verification of attendance.	\$20 per workshop or workshop series, \$60 maximum
Home Run Referral	Refer a child to enrollment.		\$25 per enrollment, maximum of \$75
Medical or Dental Checkup	Take your child to a medical or dental checkup.		\$10 per visit, maximum of one per year
Join the PTO	Join your child's PTO.		\$20, one time only
ScholarShare Account	Open a ScholarShare 529 college savings account for your child.	Account statement.	\$50, one time only
Read a Book	Read a book from the library or your home and submit a response.	Answer the questions on the activity claim form and upload photo of participant with the book.	\$10 per book response, maximum of \$30
Family Fun	Participate with your family in health or nutrition-related activities such as cooking a healthy meal together, going on a hike, playing sports, bike riding, etc.	Photo of the child and family member(s) doing the activity	\$5 per activity, maximum of \$20

Ready, Set, Save!

What is Ready, Set, Save?
 An initiative that the City of West Sacramento provides residents under the age of 19 the eligibility to earn up to **\$1,000** for their future educational expenses by completing different activities within the community. (Things you are probably already doing!)

How does it work?
 Complete an eligible activity. Then submit an **Incentive Claim** on our website. Once the activity is verified, a deposit will be made into your Ready, Set, Save! account.

What are the requirements?
 Be a West Sacramento resident and under the age of 19!



HOW TO REQUEST FINAL AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION

A college-bound student-athlete must request final amateurism certification before the NCAA Eligibility Center can process the student's final certification decision.

- » *Enrolling for the first time at an NCAA Division I or II school in the fall semester?*
Request your final amateurism certification on or after April 1 before that semester.
- » *Enrolling for the first time at an NCAA Division I or II school in the winter/spring semester?*
Request your final amateurism certification on or after October 1 before that semester.
- » *Are you an international student-athlete enrolling for the first time at a Division III school?*
Request your final amateurism certification on or after April 1 (fall enrollment) or October 1 (winter/spring enrollment).

Remember: Only certification accounts can request final amateurism certification.

If you are being actively recruited by an NCAA school and have a Profile Page account, [transition](#) it to the required [certification account](#).

Steps to Request Your Final Amateurism Certification

1. Log in at eligibilitycenter.org to view your dashboard.
 - » *On your laptop/tablet?* Select Dashboard from the menu on the left-hand side of the screen.
 - » *On your phone?* Scroll to the bottom and click Return to Dashboard.
2. Check your progress on your Dashboard. The first Account Creation circle must be complete prior to requesting your final amateurism certification.
3. Ensure all sports-participation questions are up-to-date and answered, your NCAA [enrollment period](#) accurately reflects your [first full-time enrollment](#) at any NCAA school, and all amateurism-related tasks are completed.



- » You may have tasks open in the second Send Transcripts circle and still request your final amateurism certification.
 - » Your enrollment period can be [updated](#) at any time. To update this field, select Account Settings from the menu and continue to the Basic Information screen, where high school graduation and college enrollment dates are editable on the second page.
4. In the third box on your Dashboard, select the green "Submit Request Now" button.
 5. Select each sport for which you want to request your final amateurism certification.
 6. You may request your final amateurism certification even if you are not being recruited by an NCAA school. However, the Eligibility Center may wait to begin your certification until after an NCAA school adds you to their [institutional request list](#). Please provide the school(s) recruiting you with your NCAA ID.

Tip: If you changed your [enrollment period](#) after requesting final certification, you will need to return to your Dashboard and re-request your final amateurism certification for each sport in the third box. If you have not requested final amateurism certification in the past, follow the steps above.



Autism Acceptance vs Awareness: Is There a Difference?

You have probably heard the terms “Autism Acceptance” and “Autism Awareness” used often. At first, they might seem similar, but they’re like two different paths leading to the same destination: understanding and supporting people with autism.

In many places, Autism Awareness Month is a big deal. People raise donations, share autism-related social media posts, and hold rallies. It’s a time to spread awareness of the challenges and celebrate the differences of those affected by autism.

In 2020, the Autism Society of America replaced “Awareness” with “Acceptance” for the first time. What’s behind this shift, and why do the words matter?

Autism Acceptance: Is There Still a Long Way to Go?

Today, society has a greater awareness of autism than ever before. However, those affected by autism often face many struggles throughout life, from bullying and prejudice to limited job opportunities and access to health care.

Education about the autism community is important, but advocates argue that we shouldn’t stop there. Autistic people need awareness, acceptance, and inclusion for genuine community support.

Autism Awareness vs Acceptance Month

The Autism Society of America isn’t the first autism organization to push for a rebranding of Autism Awareness Month.

Since 2011, the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN) has designated April as “Autism Acceptance Month.” ASAN emphasizes the importance of accepting autism as a natural part of the human experience to foster meaningful dialogue.

Other groups also use Autism Acceptance Month over Autism Awareness Month, including:

- the Association of University Centers on Disabilities,
- Autistic Women and Non-Binary Network, and
- the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD).

In March 2021, the Autism Society of America encouraged the media to use new language in their coverage.

Christopher Banks, the President and CEO of the Autism Society, emphasized the importance of words, stating that they play a crucial role in promoting acceptance for individuals with autism.

Recognizing that acceptance is a key factor in building strong support systems, the organization continues to raise awareness and foster understanding.

Ultimately, the goal of [Autism Acceptance Month](#) is to be more inclusive of the community it seeks to celebrate. It promotes not just education about the differences of people with autism but understanding and respecting them.

By Claire Delano,
BA January 15, 2024

The Campanile

Juniors should consider negative consequences of skipping CAASPP

The Editors-in-Chief • February 29, 2020

The Palo Alto Unified School District requires all students from grade three through eight and all juniors to participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress or Smarter Balanced Assessments.

While participation rates for these assessments are usually near or at 100% for all elementary and middle schools in the district, they land dozens of percentage points lower for PAUSD's high schools, especially Paly. In 2017 and 2018, only 16% and 19% of Paly students, respectively, participated in the CAASPP. Paly's participation only recently crossed the 50% mark, landing at 51% in 2019.

One major reason behind the low CAASPP participation rate at Paly is that while the federal government requires all students to be assessed, California EdCode allows parents to provide an exemption for their child, so many students are excused from the exam. Last year, 25.2% of eligible students in PAUSD were exempted from the exam by a parent or guardian.

However, The Campanile thinks all juniors ought to participate in the CAASPP because it upholds the reputation of Paly, allows programs for minority student groups to continue to be well-funded and is an opportunity for students to skip prerequisites or earn individual awards.

Participation in the CAASPP is crucial more than ever this year, according to PAUSD Research, Assessment & Evaluation Director Chris Kolar and Assessment & Evaluation Manager Janine Penney. California has implemented a new accountability system that significantly impacts districts with low participation on the CAASPP.

Specifically, if Paly does not meet the state-required 95% participation rate on the CAASPP, California assigns every student who did not take the CAASPP the lowest possible score, or Lowest Obtainable Scale Score, until the total participation of the school reaches 95%.

This new policy would drag down Paly's average student score on the CAASPP. A low average score reflects poorly on PAUSD's California Schools Dashboard, which reports data on public school performance. The dashboard is also "highly accessible and visible to colleges, the community, and the public," according to a letter from Paly principal Adam Paulson and Gunn principal Kathie Larence that was sent out to juniors' families.

As a result, low participation significantly harms the academic reputation of PAUSD.

Furthermore, according to Penney, the California Department of Education could reduce or pull Federal Title I & II funding for schools or districts with low CAASPP participation rates.

These funds are used by the district to support vulnerable groups such as socioeconomically disadvantaged students and English learners. For example, Title I & II funding help fund reading specialists in elementary schools.

Participation in the CAASPP also directly affects students. The CAASPP is a prerequisite for individual honors including the State Seal of Biliteracy and Golden State Seal Merit Diploma. It is also a College Readiness Indicator — students who achieve a certain score can skip placement tests or introductory courses for California State University schools or specific community colleges.

The Campanile commends the measures that both Paly and Gunn are taking to encourage juniors to take the CAASPP since last year, including providing incentives such as free school gear and raffles for prizes such as parking permits.

Already, the district has seen a significant participation increase over the past two years. Paly's participation rate for juniors climbed from 19% in 2018 to 51% in 2019, while Gunn's rose from 62% to 74% during the same time span.

We urge students to play their part and act in the district's and their own best interests by attending the CAASPP exam. We hope Paly can make another leap in participation this year and finally reach the minimum required threshold of 95% participation.