

# DHS Counselor Corner

## DOWNEY HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER SESH 2025

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1	June 12-13	Thursday - Friday
Week 2	June 16-18	Monday-Wednesday (No school June 19 & 20)
Week 3	June 23-27	Monday - Friday
Week 4	June 30- July 3	Monday-Thursday (No school July 4)
Week 5	July 7-11	Monday - Friday
Week 6	July 14-18	Monday - Friday

## Summer School 2025

Summer school is designed to help students catch up on any missed credits or improve their grades in order to stay on track for graduation or college admission. This year, summer school will be in session from Thursday, June 12 - Friday, July 18.

Period 1 classes will run from 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM.

Period 2 classes will run from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Make sure to talk to your school counselor about your summer school classes!

Mr. Jesus Alvarez will be the summer school Principal, and Ms. Jessica Saucedo and Ms. Jennifer Hudson will be the summer school Assistant Principals.

## Important Dates

- ☒ AP Testing:  
May 5 - May 16
- ☒ Senior Awards Night:  
May 20
- ☒ Senior College Luncheon: May 21
- ☒ Graduation Ceremony:  
May 29

## Counseling Highlights

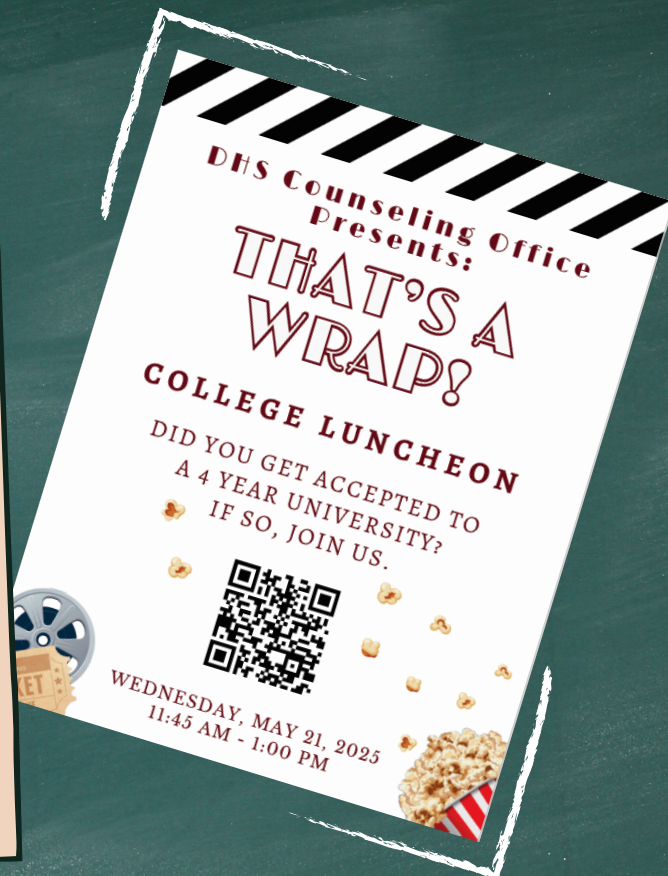
During the week of April 22-25, school counselors reviewed Q4 Progress Reports to identify 12th-grade students who were in danger of failing one or more classes required for graduation. Counselors mailed home letters, indicating if a student was on the Senior Fail List. The letter stated that if students do not clear their classes by May 23, 2025, then they may not participate in the graduation ceremony on May 29, 2025. We also advised parents/guardians to check their students' grades via Parent Connection and contact teachers directly via email.



## Senior College Luncheon

On Tuesday, May 20, Senior Awards Night will be hosted in the Downey Theatre, starting at 6:00 PM. This ceremony celebrates achievements and recognitions with monetary awards, scholarships, and academic awards. Qualifying seniors will be invited to attend.

This year's Senior College Luncheon, themed "That's a Wrap," will be held on Wednesday, May 21 from 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM. If you were accepted to a 4-year college or university, scan the QR code or head over to [tinyurl.com/dhslunch25](https://tinyurl.com/dhslunch25) to complete the Google Form and upload an image of your acceptance letter from a 4-year college or university.



## "Top Teacher Tip" from Ms. Green



Some advice would be to establish short- and long-term goals that keep you motivated throughout your journey. Get involved in activities and clubs to build friendships and develop leadership skills. Foster positive relationships with teachers and administrators. Ask for help when you need it. Embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, and remember that learning is lifelong.

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# DHS Counselor Corner

DOWNEY HIGH SCHOOL

## FUTURE FRESHMEN

CLASS OF 2029

### Future Freshmen Night

At Downey High School's Open House: Future Freshmen Night on March 12, school counselors presented information to future freshmen and their families about graduation requirements, the critical 15 A-G courses, CTE pathways, and 9th-grade schedule options. There was also an Honors and AP panel hosted by Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Wilmoth, Mr. Bean, Ms. Voulgaris, Mr. Whitt, Mr. De La Torre, Mr. Young, and Mr. Judy. School counselors and teachers answered questions from the audience and shared information to help future students and their parents/guardians successfully navigate the next four years at Downey High School.

### Counseling Highlights

On March 17-18 and March 26-27, school counselors went to Doty Middle School and Sussman Middle School to register 8th graders for their high school classes. School counselors shared the dates for Link Crew's Freshmen Orientation, and went over classes that all 9th-grade students must take, including Physical Education, English, Math, Science, Health, Ethnic Studies, and a Language Other Than English (LOTE) or Visual/Performing Art (VPA). We described the various course offerings to help students make their course selections.

### Important Dates

- ☒ California's Updated Financial Aid Priority Deadline: April 2
- ☒ Cerritos College Field Trip: April 4
- ☒ Spring Break: April 14-21
- ☒ Administrative Professionals Day: April 23

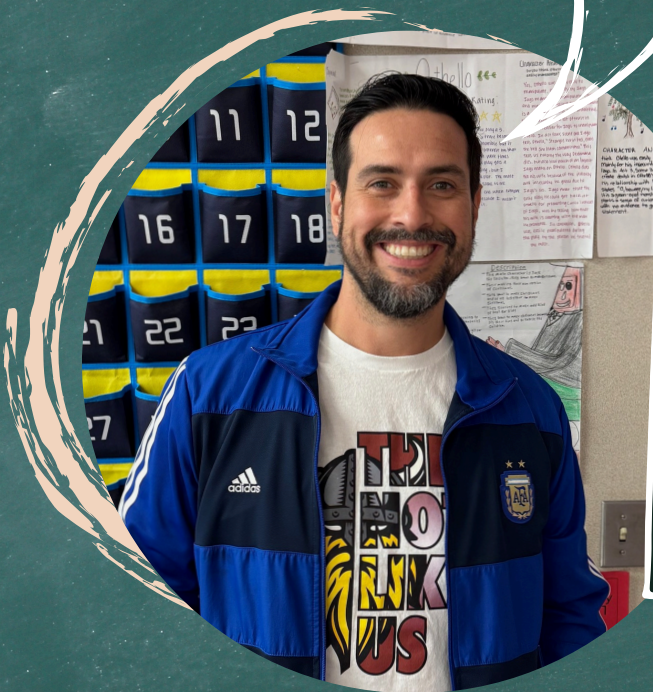


## Senior Preview Day

This event is designed to introduce high school seniors to Cerritos College's campus and acquaint them with their academic and Career Technical Education programs, Student Services, Athletics, and Student Life. Future Falcons will have an opportunity to meet with faculty and staff from a host of programs through their interactive Booth Fair. There will be demonstrations, exhibits, presentations, campus tours, and fun activities. If you are interested in attending, you will need to pick up a permission slip from the College & Career Center in Room A-201. Space is limited!



“Top Teacher Tip”  
from Mr. Farina



Get off your phone. There's a whole beautiful world out there with amazing people in it that are passing you by when you're locked on that screen. Life isn't about just being comfortable: get out there, meet people, and try new things. You'll be happier for it.

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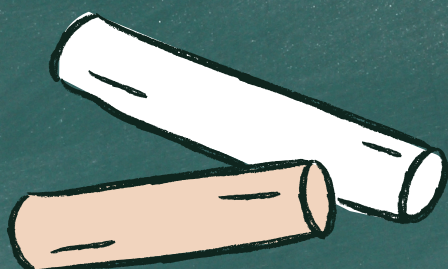


# DHS Counselor Corner



## FAFSA/CADAA Workshops

The College & Career Center will be hosting the final FAFSA/CADAA application workshops before the updated April 2, 2025 deadline. They will be held from Monday, March 17 through Thursday, March 20, from 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM in the Downey High School Library. Students and parents/guardians are invited to get one-on-one assistance with the financial aid application. Students and their parents/guardians must have their personal email addresses readily available, along with their SSN (if applicable). If you have any questions, please visit our College and Career Center in Room A-201.



## Counseling Highlights

On Monday, February 24, school counselors went into 10th-grade World History and AP European History classes to review graduation requirements, A-G four-year college requirements, athletics, grades/GPA, and course offerings. During the weeks of February 26-March 6, counselors met one-on-one with sophomores to share their official high school transcripts, review credits, determine A-G status, discuss progress toward graduation, schedule for summer school, and select classes for 11th grade.

## Important Dates

- ☒ Future Freshmen Night: March 12
- ☒ Doty Middle School Registration: March 17
- ☒ Sussman Middle School Registration: March 26-27
- ☒ FAFSA / CADAA #iApplied Week: March 24-28



## "Next Steps" Visits

The month of March is packed with informational presentations for our college-bound 12th graders. On Monday, March 10, starting at 3:30 PM, representatives from UC Merced will be in the College & Career Center to go over next steps in the admissions process. On Monday, March 17, at 3:30 PM, there will be a "Next Steps" presentation from Cal Poly Pomona. And on Wednesday, March 19, CSU Fullerton will be in Room A-201 at 3:00 PM to discuss next steps at their university. Lastly, there will be a field trip to Cypress College on Friday, March 21. For more information, please visit the College & Career Center.



## "Top Teacher Tip" from Mr. Nelson



Take pride in your work.  
Anything worth doing is  
worth doing well.  
Surround yourself with  
positive people who  
encourage you to be the  
best version of yourself.

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## FAFSA Deadlines

### State Financial Aid Programs

For most state financial aid programs, submit your application no later than March 3, 2025.

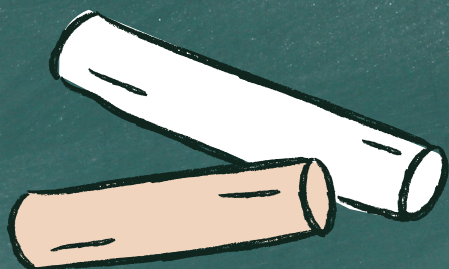
### Cal Grant

Counselors recommend submission of a Cal Grant school-certified GPA by March 3, 2025.

For additional community college Cal Grants, apply by Sept. 2, 2025.

### All Other Aid

If you're a noncitizen without a Social Security card or had one issued through the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, you should fill out the California Dream Act Application at [dream.csac.ca.gov](http://dream.csac.ca.gov).



## Counseling Highlights

During the weeks of January 21-30, counselors met one-on-one with freshmen to share their official high school transcripts, discuss credits and summer school, and select classes for 10th grade. Between February 5-18, counselors met one-on-one with juniors to identify post-secondary plans, determine A-G status, discuss progress toward graduation, and select classes for 12th grade.

## Important Dates


- ☒ 10th Grade Registration Presentations: Feb. 24
- ☒ One-on-One Sophomore Meetings: February 26-March 7
- ☒ FAFSA/CADAA Workshops: Feb. 12, 13, and 20 in A-201
- ☒ FAFSA/CADAA Workshop: Feb. 22 in the Writing Center





# Volunteer, Internship, and Research Opportunities

Hey, Vikes! Are you looking for volunteer, internship, and research opportunities? Our very own Ms. Juliet Santa Cruz has been working with a former DHS student, who is currently a Public Health major at UC Irvine. He has a mentoring program called Bridging the Gap, and he shared a valuable list with us! Ms. Jackie Guevara combined them into one color-coded document, which can be found at [tinyurl.com/DHSopportunities](https://tinyurl.com/DHSopportunities). Check with the College & Career Center in A-201 if you have any questions.

## VOLUNTEER & INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



"Top Teacher Tip"  
from Ms. Baca



Make learning valuable by seeking help when needed and by being an active participant in your classes. Approach challenges with a positive attitude and believe in yourself!

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# DHS Counselor Corner



**FAFSA/CADAA WORKSHOPS**

**WORK ON YOUR APPLICATIONS IN PERSON**

**EVENT WILL BE HELD:**

JANUARY 29TH & 30TH 📅

4 PM - 5 PM 🕒

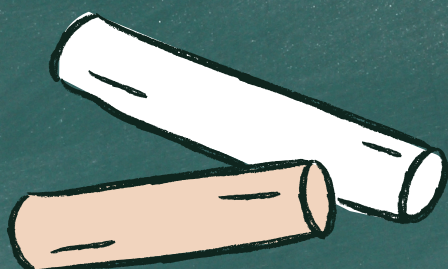
COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER - A201 📍

@DHS\_CCC 📷

- PLEASE HAVE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AVAILABLE, IF APPLICABLE
- BRING DEVICE
- BRING PARENT'S 2023 TAX INCOME INFORMATION

## FAFSA / CA Dream Act

The College & Career Center will be hosting additional FAFSA/CADAA application workshops on Wednesday, January 29 and Thursday, January 30 from 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM in Room A201. Students and parents/guardians are invited to get one-on-one assistance with the financial aid application. Students and their parents/guardians must have their personal email addresses readily available, along with their SSN (if applicable). If you have any questions, please visit our College & Career Center in Room A201.



## Counseling Highlights

On Thursday, January 9 and Friday, January 10, school counselors conducted transcript evaluations for over 4,000 students. Counselors reviewed students' final Semester 1 grades, updated their graduation checks accordingly, determined their A-G eligibility, and made appropriate updates to students' schedules to keep them on track.

## Important Dates

- ☒ 9th Grade Registration Presentations: Jan. 17
- ☒ One-on-One Freshman Evaluations: January 21-30
- ☒ 11th Grade Registration Presentations: Feb. 4
- ☒ One-on-One Junior Evaluations: February 5-19



## Senior Scholarships

**Edison Scholars:** Deadline is January 23.

**Stauffer Community College Scholarship:**  
Deadline is January 30.

**Betty & Joe Zupancic Memorial Scholarship:** Deadline is January 31.

To apply for local scholarships, students must complete an essay, résumé, and online application, which can be found at <https://localscholarshiponline.dusd.net/>.  
Deadline is January 31.



**EDISON SCHOLARS**  
DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD THROUGH STEM?

**\$50,000**  
for STEM College Scholarships!

Edison International is awarding \$50,000 college scholarships to 30 high school seniors to help them follow their dreams in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) and empower them to change the world.  
Guidelines at: [EDISONSCHOLARS.COM](https://EDISONSCHOLARS.COM)

THE 2025 EDISON SCHOLARS APPLICATION IS OPEN FROM  
**OCT. 1, 2024 - JAN. 23, 2025**  
**APPLY NOW**

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:**

- Must be a high school senior and show financial need
- Have a minimum 3.0 GPA
- Live in Southern California Edison's service area
- Plan to attend a four-year college or university and pursue studies in science, technology, engineering or math.

The Edison Scholars program recognizes students who want to be makers of tomorrow — the dreamers, inventors, guardians and pioneers — those who dare to be great.

**EDISON INTERNATIONAL**

“Top Teacher Tip”  
from Ms. Carbajal

In art and outside of it, focus on a growth mindset. To be successful, you don't have to be perfect--you just need to do your best and improve over time. Be persistent, but also be patient. You're not always going to see immediate success, and that is okay! High school is just the jumping-off point. I hope you stay curious and willing to learn long after graduation.

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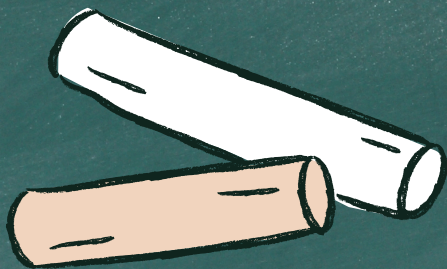


# DHS Counselor Corner



## #iApplied Week

#iApplied Week was a huge success! Thus far, 498 seniors have submitted applications to at least one 4-year university! During our lunch-time activities, we raffled off a Prom ticket, a Grad Nite ticket, a 2024-25 Yearbook, a Winter Formal ticket, and 2 extra graduation tickets. We also delivered #iApplied t-shirts to students in their classes. Congratulations to all!



## Counseling Highlights

On Friday, November 15, school counselors went into 10th-grade English classes to conduct Sophomore Spotlight presentations. These lessons included information on A-G vs. graduation requirements, Honors & AP classes, and State Weighted GPA. Students also completed a Career Interest Survey through their California Colleges accounts and wrote summaries about 4 occupations they selected.

## Important Dates

- ☒ ASVAB Test: December 11
- ☒ Finals Week: December 16-19
- ☒ Local Scholarship Application: Open Until January 31, 2025
- ☒ FAFSA: December 1, 2024 - March 3, 2025



## Cerritos College Liaison

Every Friday, from 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, the College & Career Center will be hosting a Cerritos College liaison in room A-201. Teachers are welcome to contact Tina, Rudy, Maria, or Jackie to schedule an in-class presentation. Our Cerritos representative, Mr. Santos Nuñez, will be here to assist with 2-years-for-free applications, career exploration, and financial aid workshops.



<https://linktr.ee/cerritosliaison>

**CERRITOS COLLEGE**

**SANTOS NUÑEZ**  
COLLEGE REP

**CERRITOS COLLEGE LIAISON**

**GET 2 YEARS FREE COLLEGE TUITION!**

**Contact Info**

Ways you can contact me:

✉ [sgnunez@cerritos.edu](mailto:sgnunez@cerritos.edu)  
☎ (562) 379-9694  
📷 Cerritoscomplete

**Downey High School**

**Fridays**  
12:40 PM - 4:10 PM  
College and Career center (A201)



### "Top Teacher Tip" from Mr. Dunn



Maintain your passion and perseverance for long-term goals, and strive to complete them. Invest in others and build meaningful relationships; don't chase the things the world deems important, as they often fail to bring true happiness.

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# DHS Counselor Corner

**COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER**

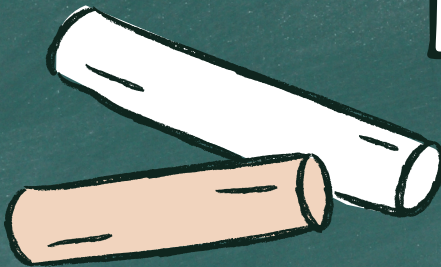
**COLLEGE APP & FSA ID WORKSHOPS**

11/6	3 - 5 PM LIBRARY
11/13	3 - 6:30 PM C BUILDING
11/14	3 - 6 PM LIBRARY
11/16 SATURDAY	9AM - 12PM WRITING CENTER
11/18 - 11/22	4 - 7 PM LIBRARY

## College App Workshops

College & Career Advisors and School Counselors will be hosting College Application & FSA ID workshops on November 6 from 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM in the Library; on November 13 from 3:00 PM - 6:30 PM in the C building; on November 14 from 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM in the Library; on November 16 (which is a Saturday) from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the Writing Center; and the week of November 18 - November 22 from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM in the Library.

You can receive assistance with your CSU, UC, community college, and Common App applications, and also set up your FSA ID for financial aid.



## Counseling Highlights

During the weeks of October 10 - October 24, counselors went into 12th-grade English classes to guide students through completing college applications. For the first time, Downey High School students launched their community college, CSU, and UC applications through the CaliforniaColleges.edu portal. Counselors discussed students' high school coursework and A-G matching, and also encouraged students to research the majors they're interested in. Students were told to have their counselor review their applications before submitting them.

## Important Dates

- ☒ CSU & UC Applications: October 1 - December 2
- ☒ Junior Journey Class Presentations: November 4
- ☒ Sophomore Spotlight Class Presentations: November 15
- ☒ #iApplied Week: November 18-22



# #iApplied Week

Are you a senior who has applied to a CSU, UC, private, military, or other 4-year university? If so, then complete the #iApplied Google Form and upload proof of your submitted application. You can scan the QR code on the flier to the right, or you can visit the following link: [tinyurl.com/iapplied24](https://tinyurl.com/iapplied24)

You will receive an #iApplied t-shirt and can also enter yourself into drawings for the chance to win awesome prizes, such as Prom tickets, Grad Nite tickets, a 2025 Yearbook, and more!



“Top Teacher Tip”  
from Ms. Barbeau

You don't have to be the smartest person to get good grades and be successful; you just need to put in the time and the effort—and do so consistently!

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# DHS Counselor Corner



## College Fair 2024

On Wednesday, October 16, from 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM, the Downey Unified School District will be hosting College Fair 2024 at Warren High School. Students will have the opportunity to learn about 50+ colleges! This free event is open to students of all grade levels. Students and families in the community will be able to explore college options and majors, meet one on one with college reps, learn about important college deadlines, and connect with college advisors. CSUs, UCs, private schools, out-of-state schools, and even international schools are expected to be in attendance. Check it out!

## Counseling Highlights

On Monday, September 23, school counselors went into 12th-grade Economics and American Government classes to review graduation requirements, A-G four-year college requirements, community colleges, trade/vocational schools, and financial aid. During the weeks of September 24-October 4, counselors met one-on-one with seniors to share their official high school transcripts, review credits, determine A-G status, discuss progress toward graduation, and explore post-secondary plans.

## Important Dates

- ☒ CSU & UC Applications:  
October 1 - December 2
- ☒ College Application  
Classroom Visits:  
October 10, 16, 23, & 24
- ☒ DUSD College Fair 2024:  
October 16 @ Warren
- ☒ Junior Journey  
Class Presentations:  
October 28



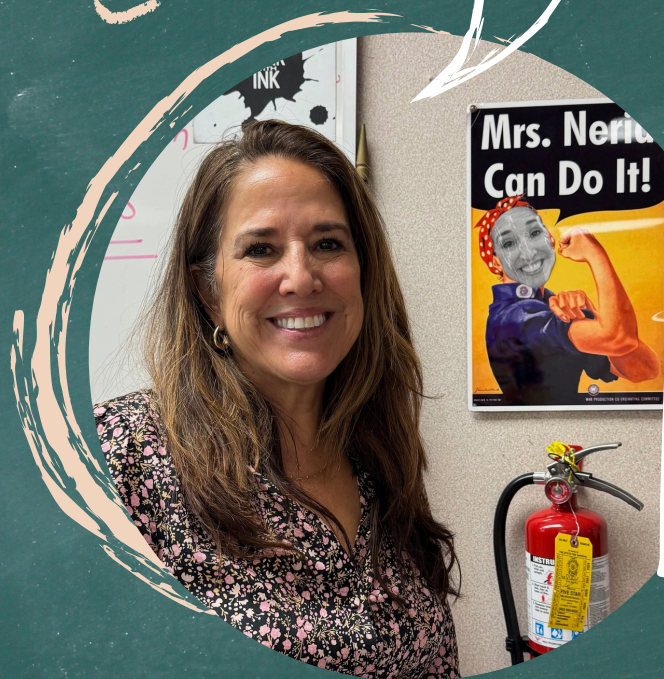
## Local Scholarship Application

To apply for local scholarships, students must complete an essay, résumé, and online application, which can be found at <https://localscholarshiponline.dusd.net/>.

The deadline is Friday, January 31, 2025. This one application gives students the opportunity to be considered for multiple scholarships. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Campos at [tcampos@dusd.net](mailto:tcampos@dusd.net) or stop by the College & Career Center in Room A201.



## "Top Teacher Tip" from Ms. Neria



Take advantage of what Downey High School has to offer, whether it's science, psychology, art, or volunteering to discover what you love. Find your passion. Use your passion to give you energy when times get difficult. Incorporating passion in life can bring you joy and purpose in what you do. Perhaps you can impact others or become an inspiration. I believe it can lead to true happiness.

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# DHS Counselor Corner

## Counselor Caseloads

Did you know that counselor caseloads were recently updated based on student last name? Check out the changes below:

Mr. Cooke: A - Beni  
 Mr. Toledo: Ber - Cortez  
 Mr. Marshall: Cos - Foley  
 Ms. Curiel: Foot - Haynes  
 Ms. Loyarte: Hel - Lopez, D  
 Mr. Evans: Lopez, E - Monroe  
 Ms. Acosta: Monroy - Perez, B  
 Ms. Murillo: Perez, C - Rod  
 Ms. Ruiz: Rojas - Teuner  
 Mr. Zakour: Th - Z

DOWNEY HIGH SCHOOL Counselors				
 A - BENI Cooke, Nathan ncooke@dhsd.net Ext. 5508 Remind @ncookehdhs	 BER - CORTEZ Toledo, Alan atoledo@dhsd.net Ext. 5510 Remind @toledodhs	 COS - FOLEY Marshall, Scott smarshall@dhsd.net Ext. 5507 Remind @marshallhs	 FOOT - HAYNES Curiel, Terri tcuriel@dhsd.net Ext. 5519 Remind @tcurielhs	 HEL - LOPEZ, D Loyarte, Joanne jloyarte@dhsd.net Ext. 5569 Remind @loyartedhs
 LOPEZ, E - MONROE Evans, Wayne wevans@dhsd.net Ext. 5521 Remind @evansdhs	 MONROY - PEREZ, B Acosta, Lori lacosta@dhsd.net Ext. 5518 Remind @lacoastdhs	 PEREZ, C - ROD Murillo, Veronica vmurillo@dhsd.net Ext. 5512 Remind @vmurillohs	 ROJAS - TEUNER Ruiz, Susan suruiz@dhsd.net Ext. 5315 Remind @ruizdhs	 TH - Z Zakour, Zak zzakour@dhsd.net Ext. 5509 Remind @zakourdhs

## Counseling Highlights

Throughout the end of July and the month of August, school counselors worked tirelessly to schedule over 4,000 students into their classes. This included our incoming group of freshmen, the Class of 2028, who totaled over 1,100 students! School counselors have also collaborated to balance class sizes. We appreciate your patience, understanding, and support throughout the process!

## Important Dates

- ☒ Back-to-School Night:  
September 11
- ☒ Freshman Focus  
Class Presentations:  
September 13
- ☒ Senior Success  
Class Presentations:  
September 23
- ☒ One-on-One  
Senior Evaluations:  
September 24 - October 7



# College Visits

Several universities will be visiting Downey High School throughout the month of September. Stop by the College & Career Center in A201 to learn more information.

University of Southern California (USC):  
September 4

California State University, Dominguez Hills  
(CSUDH): September 5

California State University, Monterey Bay  
(CSUMB): September 25

Also, on Tuesday, September 24, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, CSU College Night will be held at the Pasadena Convention Center. You can RSVP at [www.calstate.edu/collegenights](http://www.calstate.edu/collegenights).

## College Visits

PLEASE JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF YOUR DREAMS!

9-4 USC VISITS DOWNEY HS AT 3PM IN A201  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

9-5 CAL STATE DOMINGUEZ HILLS VISITS  
DOWNEY HS AT 3PM IN A201

9-25 CAL STATE UNIVERSITY MONTEREY BAY  
VISITS DOWNEY HS AT 3PM IN A201

10-2 UC SANTA BARBARA VISITS DOWNEY HS  
AT 3PM IN A201

10-9 DUKE UNIVERSITY VISITS DHS AT 3PM  
10-10 FULLERTON STATE VISITS 3PM IN A201

10-16 DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT COLLEGE  
FAIR AT 5:30PM AT WARREN HS



## "Top Teacher Tip" from Ms. Ramirez



My best advice for students to succeed in high school and beyond is to get involved and actively participate in your life. Join clubs and organizations that are meaningful to you and allow you to make a difference. This will also provide you with opportunities to make connections and meet new people, which can further your career and future endeavors.

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