

## **Here are some tips from a current senior: (This is part of his senior project)**

### **Honors/Advanced Placement programs**

Admission will be determined by grades in the prerequisite classes, teacher recommendations and test scores.

### **Plan Ahead**

You may not think so now, but your next four years will go by very quickly. The classes you take now will affect what you can do next year and what you take next year will affect the year after that and so on. However, planning ahead and doing well in your classes your freshman year will make things much easier in your sophomore, junior, and senior years.

## **Classes**

### **English**

You will have an English class for the next four years. You cannot take English during the summer to get ahead. Do not expect yourself to know if you want to take AP English 11 and AP English 12 just yet. However, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade Honors English is a good introduction and preparation for the AP English courses.

### **Math**

Last year you probably had either: Algebra I, Algebra AB, Algebra CD, or a pre-algebra class. If you wish to get ahead or catch up in math you *can* take a math class at Moorpark College during the summer for that purpose. You should try to take Algebra II, at the latest in your senior year. Getting into many colleges is becoming much more difficult without having taken Algebra II in your junior year or earlier, but not impossible.

### **Science**

All four year colleges require that you have completed two years of CP lab science, some require three years (and I recommend three years as many colleges do). I suggest that you take a CP science class your freshman year.

### **Electives**

There are a variety of classes you can take for elective credit. However, you need to fulfill certain credits before you can graduate. To graduate from SSSHS you need to take 1 semester each of: Health and a computer course (any computer class fulfills this). It is good to get those courses out of the way in your freshman year (or during the summer) so that you have more freedom in choosing classes later in high school.

### **Social Science**

In your freshman year you will not have a social science class, but next year you will have World History or AP World History. US History in junior year and Government and Economics in senior year.

### **Foreign Language / Fine Arts**

You must take one year of foreign language or a fine arts class to fulfill the high school graduation requirement. However, colleges require two years of a language other than English. The more prestigious schools require three years and recommend four.

### **Visual / Performing Arts**

You must take a year long visual or performing arts class to be admitted to college.

### **P.E.**

You need to take two years of Physical Education to graduate from Santa Susana. These two years can be fulfilled with: P.E., Dance classes (tap, jazz, swing, and ballet), marching band or sports programs at Simi HS or Royal HS.

### **GPA**

Whether you are interested in the School of Academics, the Arts, or Technology you need to do well in all of your classes. Not only will it help when you apply to colleges, jobs, and pay for car insurance, but it will allow you to participate in extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities such as athletics, leadership, and instrumental music all require that students maintain a certain GPA (different for each).

### **Summer Classes**

I strongly advise that you work to pass all of your classes and look at graduation requirements now. Spending three to six hours a day for six weeks taking courses during the summer is time consuming. Many students who do not plan ahead take summer courses at Simi Valley high schools or at community colleges (Pierce and Moorpark) so that they meet the requirements to graduate and go to college. If you pass all of your classes during the year and plan ahead you may not have to retake courses or take prerequisites.

### **First Year After High School**

You probably have no idea of what you might be doing in your first year after high school right now. You may go to a two year or four year college, you may go to a vocational school, you may enter the workforce. However, work hard now so that your options are open later. Even if you do not end up taking AP English 12 or AP Physics C: Mechanics and Electricity & Magnetism work hard in all your classes so that you have an easier time doing whatever it is that you want later. Most people don't decide on a career until they are in their mid twenties. Read about something you think sounds interesting in an encyclopedia, in a library, or on the internet. Do a little more now so that you can choose later.