Important Information
October 26—N-MUSD Tutor Fair, 5-7 p.m. at Rea Elementary School
October 27—College Application Night, 6:00pm in the Choir Room
November 1—Staff Development Day—No school
November 4—End of first quarter
November 7—Start of second quarter
    Counseling Night, 6:30pm in the EHS Theater (New Date!)
November 9—No late start, A Day bell schedule
November 11—Veterans' Day—No school
November 23-25—Thanksgiving Recess—No school
November 30—Deadline to apply to UC/CSU
December 19-December 30—Winter Recess—No school
January 16—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—No school
January 30-February 2—First semester final exams—Semester exam bell schedule

Counselor Assignments for the 2011/2012 School Year
9th Grade—Molly Warmsley
10th Grade and Puente—Dan Nafarrate
11th Grade—Mindy Savage
12th Grade—Rhonda Reid
ROP/Career Specialist—Jennifer Sweet
(Contact details on page 6)
Parents of 9th Grade Students

You must re-register for School Loop on the Estancia website to received daily emails on the progress of your student. Register at estancia@nmusd.us and click “register now”. You will need the school I.D. number of your child to register or you may call the Counseling Office for assistance at (949) 515-6504.

Parenting Wisely Classes

Estancia’s Community Facilitator Maria Barragan will be conducting 2 sessions of parenting classes this year. The fall session will run from November 14th through December 12th. Parenting Wisely classes will be held every Monday in the EHS Library from 6 to 8pm and child care is provided. Another session will be offered in spring 2012.

Sessions are offered at various schools and during different times (mornings, evenings, and Saturdays) in both English and Spanish. Parenting Wisely classes teach skills such as:

- Assertive Discipline
- Using “I” statements
- Contracting
- Active listening

Sessions offered at Estancia High School are for Spanish speaking parents only. If you would like to inquire about Parenting Wisely classes being offered in English, please contact Maria Barragan at (949) 515-6563.

Kuder Career Planning Program

As you may know, we have been providing our freshmen and juniors the opportunity to participate in the Kuder Career Planning Program. The Kuder website features three assessments based on interests, skills, and values which are used to identify potential career pathways, learn about educational requirements, and colleges. Students and their families can even create a four-year education plan through the website. Students are taking the Kuder assessments through their Freshmen Seminar classes and United States History classes. Students and parents will be able to access their accounts from home or any computer on campus after the student has registered for an account. For more information regarding the Kuder Career Planning system, please visit www.kudernavigator.com.

Community Service

Students who would like to attend the Winter Formal Dance in January, must complete the following minimum number of community service hours:

- Grade 9—Must have 3 hours completed
- Grade 10—Must have 15 hours completed
- Grade 11—Must have 25 hours completed
- Grade 12—Must have 30 hours completed

Need ideas on how to earn community service hours? Look for the monthly email that is sent out through School Loop on community service opportunities or obtain a copy of the Community Service Directory of Resources through our Counseling Office or download it through our school website.
Estancia High School presents
Counseling Night
Monday, November 7, 2011
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
in the EHS Theater

Come meet your student’s counselor & learn valuable information on the following:

- High school graduation requirements
- College admission requirements
- EHS course offerings
- Honors/Advanced Placement program
- Intervention programs
- Extracurricular activities offered
- Student & parent involvement
- Traits of successful students

Spanish translation will be available. If you have questions regarding the evening, please contact the Estancia High School Counseling Department at (949) 515-6504.
Do I have a better chance of getting in if I apply early?
Many students apply early decision because they believe that there is an advantage to applying early and that their chances of being admitted are greater. Actually, this can vary from school to school and year to year, and may depend upon the applicant pool at the school where you are applying. Do your homework first and check to see what percentage of students in the previous graduating classes at your high school were admitted early decision to a specific college or university. Are you qualified to apply as early decision? If you are, and this is a school you really with to attend, then apply early decision.

How much time should I give my teachers to write letters of recommendation for me?
Teachers should always receive a minimum of two weeks notice, prior to the postmark date. Be sure to ask in a way that allows a teacher to decline comfortably if he/she does not have time to do an adequate job. For example? “Do you feel you know me well enough, and do you have enough time to write a supportive letter of recommendation for me to...” Give the teacher a stamped envelope addressed to the college, along with any recommendation form provided by the college.

Should I apply to only those schools where I can get a lot of financial aid?
Since most schools have a deadline on or before January 1st to apply, and your family financial information for the previous year is not available until after January 1st, it is difficult to always know which schools will award you financial aid. The best thing to do is to contact the financial aid office at a school where you are thinking of applying and ask what kind of financial aid is available and if you are a good candidate. Then apply to those schools where you think your chances of receiving financial aid are the most promising.

What is the Common Application? Should I use it?
The Common Application has been developed by a group of colleges and universities that belong to the Common Application group. They accept this application in place of their own without any penalty. You fill it out once (on the computer is the easiest way) and then mail copies of the same application to any school that participates. Some of the participating colleges accept the application online and some have a supplement that must be submitted in addition. The Common Application and all information pertaining to it is available at www.commonapp.org. This is a great time saver—but remember to do a good job and proofread no matter what application format you use.

How many times should I take the SAT® tests?
How well did you do on the SAT the first time you took it? Some students are satisfied with their SAT scores the first time they take it. Students who have taken the PSAT/NMSQT® more than once and feel prepared to take the SAT often only take the SAT twice. Sometimes students will take it three times, but most students will take it in the spring of the junior year and the fall of the senior year.
My SAT scores are very low and my grades are very high. Will this affect my chances of admission?

While SAT scores are an indicator of success in college, admissions staff members look at many different factors when making a decision about whether to admit a student or not. One of the main things they are looking for is to see if your high school academic profile indicates that you have the potential for academic success on their campus. What kind of courses have you taken? Have you taken rigorous courses such as AP® courses? Have you taken AP Exams so that there are scores to indicate how you may perform in a college-level course?

My parents don’t make a lot of money—will colleges hold this against me?

Colleges should tell you whether or not they have a “need-blind” admissions policy. Those that do never consider ability to pay as an admissions criterion. Other schools, which are “need-conscious”, may consider ability to pay, but for a very small proportion of the admitted group. My advice always is: don’t worry about this. If you need financial assistance, you wouldn’t be well served at a college that couldn’t assist you financially.

I want to send additional material that I think will support my application. Is this okay?

It depends on what you want to send. Most colleges and universities read hundreds or maybe thousands of applications, and they expect to find the information that they need to make an admission decision about you in their specific application form. It is okay to send an additional letter of information to explain something that cannot be explained on the application forms, but other items that students sometimes send are not helpful and may be viewed as tiring to distract the admissions staff members from the actual application. Talk to your school counselor about any additional items that you are thinking about sending. Their knowledge and experience will be helpful to you in making this decision.

How can I improve my chances of getting in off the waiting list?

If a college is your first choice, let the college know that—although the college ethically may not ask for this information. Write a letter to the director of admissions expressing your continuing strong interest and updating the admissions office with any new information that reflects well on your ability to contribute to the quality of the freshman class. In addition, you may wish to ask your counselor to make a call on your behalf. Many colleges keep track of these kinds of contacts and students who are enthusiastic and persistent will get looked at first. Colleges want to admit students off the waiting list who they believe will accept the offer of admission.

Do Colleges really care about your senior year grades?

Absolutely! Many colleges will not make a decision until receiving first semester grades. They expect to see a performance that indicates you are ready for college-level work. The college at which you make your enrollment deposit will ask for a final transcript at the end of the senior year. (Admissions letters often contain something like, “Your admission is contingent upon your continued successful performance.”) It is not at all rare for a college to withdraw an offer of admission when grades drop significantly over the course of the senior year.

(Answers contributed by Mary Lee Hoganson and Nadine K. Maxwell, college counselors)
Now is the time to sign up for
Spring ROP Classes
See Mrs. Sweet in the Career Center for class offerings.

Estancia offers the SAT
Estancia High School just began its’ fifth year of offering the SAT on campus. Estancia offers 6 of the 7 test dates. These are the remaining dates and deadlines to register this school year. Register at collegeboard.org. Avoid late fees by registering before 9pm on the registration deadline date.

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<th>Test Date</th>
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<td>December 3rd</td>
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<td>May 5th</td>
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When’s the best time to take the SAT?
Most students take the SAT for the first time during the spring of their junior year and a second time during the fall of their senior year.

What to bring to the SAT?

- Admission ticket
- Photo I.D.
- Two no. 2 pencils and a soft eraser
- Acceptable calculator, i.e.: graphing, scientific or 4 function (not recommended). More calculator details available at collegeboard.org.
Visit School Loop to get important information about scholarships, upcoming deadlines and other useful college information. Facebook users can join casadecollege.

Counseling Department Information

**Counseling Department hours** - 7:30am-3:30pm and by appointment.

Linda Fullmer - lfullmer@nmusd.us (949) 515-6504-Secretary  
Molly Warmsley - mwarmsley@nmusd.us (949) 515-6556-9th grade  
Daniel Nafarrate - dnafarrate@nmusd.us (949) 515-6554-10th grade and Puente  
Mindy Savage—msavage@nmusd.us (949) 515—6555—11th grade  
Rhonda Reid - rreid@nmusd.us (949) 515-6680-12th grade  
Jennifer Sweet- jsweet@nmusd.us (949) 515-6509-ROP/Career Specialist

**Walk in times** - Counselors are available every day before school, at break, at lunch, and after school for student/parent "walk in" times.

**Non-walk in times** - during class time, students are only allowed to see their Counselors if they have been sent a call slip by counseling. The Counseling Team supports the teachers by limiting the amount of missed instructional time.

If a student or parent needs to meet with a Counselor, they can make an appointment through Linda Fullmer or email or call the counselor directly.

**Emergencies** - if a student has an immediate need to talk with their Counselor (i.e. personal/social/emotional issues), they may be sent to the office with a hall pass from a teacher or they can walk in so we can address students immediately.

Students and parents do not need to see a Counselor for the following requests and can be adequately served by Linda Fullmer:

- Copies of transcripts (official/unofficial)
- Copies of their class schedule and/or grades
- Making appointments (New and current students, parents, etc.)
- Community Service forms
- Sports forms
- General information