

New online class offers students help with the college process

THE CLARION
Student Newspaper
Granite Hills High School

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A new Cuyamaca College class is offered at Granite this year that helps students with writing college essays, filling out applications, and researching scholarships, as well as learning about themselves and achieving goals.

The course is called, Personal Development Counseling 124, Lifelong Success. This high school class is different from any other class on campus because it is taught online except for one day a week when there is class after school. All course reading assignments, discussion boards, assignments, and quizzes are all accessed online. Even the textbook for the course is purchased and read online.

Sharon Neumann, who is a counselor on campus, is the instructor of the course that lasts for 16 weeks and is centered towards juniors and seniors.

“I am focusing on the college application process. I want to prepare students for the rigor of college,” Neumann said.

The online text includes chapters on personality, test taking, and even diversity. Students will also learn about being motivated, managing time and money, communication and relationships, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

“The text is how to be successful in life. It is practical, but there is never time in the classroom to share that information and prepare students for success,” Neumann said.

Being a counselor, Neumann has not taught a class full of students for a while and was eager to teach this course when the opportunity arose.

“I missed being in the classroom, and I believe in the curriculum, and for me the information is common sense that I have learned from years of life experience,” said Neumann.

From wanting help on applications, to learning about personal interests, students have many different reasons for taking the course.

“Although I have already started thinking about colleges, I knew this class would help me focus on the process of applying,” **Katie Hughes** (08) said.

“The class has taught me how to find a college that best fits my future goals. I like that the class is online so that I can complete the work on my own time,” **Taylor Hardick** (08) said.

The class meets every Tuesday after school for about an hour and a half, and the rest of the work is completed online. Students can earn 3 general education Cuyamaca College credits, and the class is also transferable to UC and CSU schools.

The cost of the course is \$40 for the online textbook, and a \$3 processing fee for Cuyamaca College.

This new course gives Granite Hills’ students a chance to learn more about themselves and receive guidance during the college process.