

## A Roadmap to College

College is coming! Well, at least if you have children, college is coming. Preparing our children for college can be a stressful experience for all. College admissions today is a very confusing and complicated business, and many parents fail to start the planning process early enough, which is the key to getting them into a good college.

Competition to get into college here in California has become fierce, and even the Cal State system currently turns away a large number of applicants. In fact, nearly half of all the applicants to California public universities are being rejected.

So how do you help your child be in the top tier and increase their odds of admissions to the school they want? Preparation should start by 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will begin taking classes that will have an impact on the rest of their academic career beginning in Junior High. Keeping our kids in contention for the best school begins by keeping them on track to include both honors and Advanced Placement classes, and keeping their grades in those classes as high as possible. At UC Berkeley, one of the best UC schools, the average freshman had a high school GPA of 4.19, average SAT scores of 2031, and at least 15 honors courses in the 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

With GPA and honors classes playing such an important role in college admissions these days, the need for Advanced Placement test preparation and tutoring for honors and AP courses has grown exponentially. In recent years many tutoring centers have begun to focus on the need for advanced tutoring and AP test preparation, and as more students begin taking advanced classes this trend shows no signs of reversing.

The key to insuring that your child has the opportunity to take as many honors and AP classes as possible is planning, and the best way to plan is to talk to your child's high school or junior high school counselor and see what can be done to get them on the right track. Of course the student must be ready to attempt this level of work. Parents should strongly consider providing supplemental educational opportunities with after school programs that focus on preparing for future academics.

For more information on tutoring, transferable classes, SAT/ACT preparation and study skills help contact Math Support Services @ (661) 255-1730 or visit our web site at [www.mathsupportservices.com](http://www.mathsupportservices.com).