



# CLEAR HORIZONS EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

CCISD's Four Time Exemplary High School

Community Newsletter – Recruiting Edition

December 2011

## Join Us On An Academic Journey

CCISD 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to apply.  
Selection is made by lottery.



## Recruitment Calendar

### Community Information Sessions:

Tuesday, January 10 at 6 pm - Clear Lake IS  
Wednesday, January 11 at 6 pm - League City IS  
Tuesday, January 17 at 6 pm - Westbrook IS  
Wednesday, January 18 at 6 pm - Bayside IS  
Tuesday, February 7 at 6 pm - Brookside IS  
Wednesday, February 8 at 6 pm - Clear Creek IS

### Student Tours at Clear Horizons ECHS

February 1 - 3, at 10 am – 11 am

### Open House at Clear Horizons ECHS

Tuesday, February 21, at 6 – 8 pm

### Application Deadline – Friday, February 24

It is best to hand deliver your application only to the principal's secretary and receive a receipt. We do not recommend that you mail them.

### Lottery – Tuesday, February 28 at 6 pm

Parent Orientation – Thursday, March 1 at 6 pm

Parent Orientation – Tuesday, March 6 at 6 pm

SJCS Entrance Testing – To Be Announced

Parent Night – Thursday, May 17 at 6 pm & 7 pm

## ECHS Designed for Underrepresented Populations

Clear Horizons Early College High School was established in 2007 on the campus of San Jacinto College South on Beamer Road and has earned a TEA Exemplary rating in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Students graduate each year with an Associate's Degree from San Jacinto College three weeks before walking across the stage and receiving a high school diploma from CCISD. Prior to 2007, the program operated under the name Project Excel with a focus on advanced students. Beginning in 2007, the program shifted to the early college high school concept.

Early college high school is a bold approach based on the principle that academic rigor, combined with the opportunity to save time and money, is a powerful motivator for students to work hard and meet serious intellectual challenges. Since 2002, the partner organizations of the Early College High School Initiative have started or redesigned more than 200 schools in 24 states and the District of Columbia. There are more than 40 early college high schools in Texas. The schools are designed so that low-income youth, first-generation college goers, English language learners, students of color, and other young people who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education can simultaneously earn a high school diploma and an Associate's degree or up to two years of credit toward a Bachelor's degree—tuition free. The majority of the students at Clear Horizons claim a minority group membership and the rate of student economic need is higher than the rest of the CCISD student population. The gifted and talented population is less than many other Early College High Schools at 14%.

Clear Horizons Early College High School is a CCISD charter school serving approximately 400 students, 100 per grade level. Eighth-grade students in CCISD may apply each spring to participate in the lottery selection for 125 seats in the freshman class. All coursework is at the Pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement levels. In addition to regular degree coursework, service learning projects are required annually and internships are required in the junior and senior years.

# Horizons listed with Top Ten Texas Gold HS

Clear Horizons Early College High School has earned 12 of 12 Texas Education Agency (TEA) Gold Performance Acknowledgements (GPA). Clear Horizons is one of only ten Texas schools with grades 9-12 that have earned all 12 gold distinctions in 2011. The TEA commends high schools for achievement in twelve areas: attendance, advanced academic courses, AP/IB Results, college admissions, college-ready graduates, recommended high school program, Texas Success Initiative Higher Education Readiness in ELA, Texas Success Initiative Higher Education Readiness in mathematics, commended on reading/ELA, commended on mathematics, commended on science, and commended on social studies.

The other schools that have earned the distinctions are Dallas ISD's School of Science and Engineering, Dallas ISD's School for the Talented and Gifted, Highland Park HS, Houston ISD's Debakey HS for Health Professions, Houston ISD's Carnegie Vanguard HS, Lovejoy HS, Northside ISD's Health Careers HS, South Texas ISD's Science Academy of South Texas, and Westlake Academy Charter School. In a review of 2010 AEIS data for these schools Clear Horizons has fewer gifted and talented students than all but one of these schools. Many of these schools are gifted and talented magnets while Clear Horizons is not. The 2010 AEIS data also reveal that Clear Horizons has a lower per pupil cost than all but one of these schools.

Clear Horizons is also one of sixty-six Texas high schools rated *Exemplary* this year. Sixteen of those sixty-six are Early College High Schools. Of those sixteen Early College High Schools, Clear Horizons has fewer gifted students than all but two and spends less money per pupil than all but three.



## First National Merit Semifinalists Named

National Merit Scholarship Corporation has announced the names of 16,000 National Merit Semifinalists, which represents less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors. These academically talented seniors have an opportunity to compete for some 8,300 National Merit Scholarships. Merit Scholars will be announced in four releases from April – July 2012.

Clear Horizons is proud to announce that we have four semifinalists for the first time ever. Robert Clark, Vivek Koshti, Jennifer Larson, and Natasha Lie are outstanding CHECHS and SJCS students. Robert Clark is interested in a career in mechanical engineering and robotics. He hopes to attend MIT. Vivek Koshti is interested in a career in medicine and has interned at UTMB. Jennifer Larson is interested in game programming and will pursue studies in computer science. Natasha Lie is interested in studying genetics.

Photographed are Robert Clark, Vivek Koshti, Jennifer Larson, and Natasha Lie.

## Program Enrollment Soars

All early college high schools are designed to have approximately 400 students with 100 students in each grade. We are accepting a maximum of 125 freshmen each year to account for students who relocate over the years. We are quickly approaching our capacity as an ECHS. Our most recent graduating class is enrolled at UT-Austin, UH, Texas Tech, the University of Alabama, University of Malta, and more.

--As of 11/2011--	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Applicants				181	<b>180</b>
Grade 9	117	99	103	120	<b>125</b>
Grade 10	74	101	82	85	<b>108</b>
Grade 11	17	64	93	78	<b>77</b>
Grade 12	0	15	50	75	<b>72</b>
Graduates	NA	12	50	75	
Associate Degrees	NA	5	37	64	
Total	208	279	328	358	<b>382</b>

	2010-2011	2011-2012
African American	5%	5%
Asian	21%	23%
Hispanic	24%	27%
White	46%	40%
TX At-Risk	31%	23%
Economically Disadvantaged	21%	29%
Gifted/Talented	13%	14%

2011 Graduates	
2 yr College	4%
4 yr. College	91%
Tech School	1%
Military	1%
Employment	0%
Unknown	0%
Travel/ Missions	3%
Total	100%

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