Keeping the Dream Alive
College and Career Readiness Event
February 1 - March 31, 2021

Santa Clara County Office of Education
Parent Engagement Program
parentengagement.sccoe.org
Passion Projects: Developing Leadership Skills through Extracurricular Activities

Elton Lin
CEO of ILUMIN Education
Elton Lin

- CEO/Founder of ILUMIN Education
- 10+ years in college counseling
- Students admitted to every top 50 + Ivy
- Growth in clarity and confidence
What are some current trends in college admissions?
Trends

- Test optional
- Students staying closer to home
- Sports recruitment
- International students
Response to Trends

- Plan/prepare for SAT or ACT
- Focus on grades + challenging courses
- Take the initiative (leadership)
- Remain active in school + community
Why should students focus on extracurricular activities?
Extracurricular Activities

- Help students explore majors + careers
- Provide purpose + motivation
- Demonstrate passions + interests
- Set one student apart from another
How do students develop leadership qualities?
What is leadership?

- Students taking the **initiative**
- Students solving problems
- Students helping others
It helps students…

- Grow in confidence
- Communicate better
- Become creative problem solvers
- Show colleges they’re READY
How...

- Become a club leader at school
- Run for student council
- Help someone in your community
- Solve a problem around you
How...

- Build a database for non-profit
- English club for international students
- House numbers on street curbs
How has shelter-in-place impacted extracurricular activities?
SIP’s impact on activities

- Driving everything online
- Less traditional volunteering
- Fewer limitations on locality
Activities during shelter-in-place

Volunteering (local + remote)

• Food packing + delivery to seniors
• UN Volunteers
• Zooniverse
• Rock the Vote
• Smithsonian Institute

BUT… can get creative!
Activities during shelter-in-place

- Take an online class (CC, Coursera)
- Learn a language
- Write a book
- Start a blog, YouTube channel, TikTok
- Perform a science experiment (Sciencebuddies.com)
- Create an iPhone app
- Start a garden and document it!
Activities during shelter-in-place

💡 Creative Ideas:

- Book club for kids
- Trumpet learning + practice club
- Teen investing blog
- Online tutoring platform (Quarantutors)
Thank You!

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Thank You!

Have questions or feedback?
Visit
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