Cabrillo eases way for H.S. kids
With fees waived, concurrent enrollment a financial reality

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APTOS — High school students with an eye on continuing education have always been able to take courses at Cabrillo College while they attend their schools. This "concurrent enrollment" — taking classes at both schools — is billed as a chance for young people to earn extra credit while getting an early view of college life.

And the college benefits as well, with potential future students ready to collo- legiate academic standards upon graduation.

But for many, the cost of classes puts the opportunity out of reach. Students at Cabrillo pay $46 per credit, making some classes as much as $138.

Thanks to an agreement between Pajaro Valley Unified School District and Cabrillo, however, that is no longer a concern.

The college announced Monday that it is waiving fees for high school students to attend certain classes.

Now, high school students who qualify need only to pay some $30 in student fees, and can take up to 11 credits.

"It's a huge deduction," said Vice President of Student Services Dennis Bailey-Fougner. "We're waiving the fee so they can have access to Cabrillo College and have a leg-up when they graduate."

Certain courses are off-limits to the high school students, but they are able to take a wide range of classes ranging from art to biology to engineering to medical assisting. All must get approval from parents, principals and counselors.

The college has aligned certain courses to high schools' bell schedule, making it easy for students to make it to class.

"I predict it will increase the enrollment at Cabrillo in the long run," said PVUSD Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction Murry Schekman. "It's a win-win for the community."

The pilot program is open to high school students across the county. Registration begins Jan. 5.

Interested students must complete and submit a concurrent enrollment form and bring it in to Cabrillo's Admissions and Records Office at either the Aptos or Watsonville campus locations.

For information, visit www.cabrillo.edu/services/outreach/concurrent.html or call 479-6165 or 479-3516.

The enrollment form is available at www.cabrillo.edu/services/ar/forms.html.