

Ridgefield Park Junior Senior High School

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Senior year is both an exciting and overwhelming time for students! Everything must be a team effort among parents, students, and counselors with each member taking an important role. It is the student's responsibility to check school email daily as this will be the means of delivering the most up-to-date information including deadlines, guidance-sponsored events, general guidance announcements, and scholarship opportunities, as well as, periodically meeting with your counselor about current happenings. Below is a timeline of important information that will be useful throughout the year for seniors.

Student Meetings with Counselors

- Counselors will refresh students on how to navigate Naviance, a college and career readiness program, to all seniors in their English classes during the week of September 20th.
- Individual student meetings will begin the week of September 27th.

Financial Aid Presentation

- On Monday, September 27th, the Guidance Department will host a virtual **Financial Aid Night**. The guest speaker will inform students and parents of how to correctly fill out the FAFSA and the timeline of when to complete and submit financial documents. A Zoom link will be provided prior to the date.

College Kick-Off Week

- October 18th - 22nd
- Approximately 30 colleges will be visiting our school to provide students with information about their institutions. Students will have the opportunity to register for the schools they would like to learn more about through Naviance. More information will be provided to students via email towards the end of September.

Instant Decision Day

- Wednesday, November 17th
- More details to follow.

College Visitation

- Seniors are granted 3 excused days from school to visit colleges. The College Visitation form (which can be found on the guidance page at www.rpps.net) must be submitted 48 hours **prior** to the visit in order for the absence to be excused. Additionally, students must submit documentation from the college's admission office as proof of their attendance. Please follow the steps outlined in the form.

Letters of Recommendation

- Students should have already started asking teachers for Letters of Recommendation for college (2 letters are recommended). The letter should be written by a recent teacher who knows them well enough to comment on their work ethic and abilities as well as character.

College Applications

- All college applications should be completed and reviewed with the student's counselor prior to the beginning of December. Once counselors view the application, there is a **2-week turnaround** for submission of all materials; this includes Early Decision and Early Action. In order for applications to be processed before the winter break, counselors must have completed applications by December 3rd.
- It is imperative that the students communicate with the counselors about which colleges they are applying to in order for the counselors to send the appropriate documents in a timely manner.
- The students must send SAT and/or ACT scores through the testing website. Scores are not sent from the guidance office.

SATs/ACTs

- SAT – October 2, 2021 @ RP
- SAT – November 6, 2021
- SAT – December 4, 2021 is the last chance to take the SAT. Registration www.collegeboard.org
- ACT – October 23, 2021
- ACT – December 11, 2021 is the last chance to take the ACT. Registration is online www.actstudent.org

Senior Awards Banquet

- In order to be eligible to receive a scholarship and attend the Academic Awards Ceremony at the end of May, students must fill out the appropriate applications which will be in Naviance in January. More detailed information about available scholarships and deadlines will be provided at a later date. Students will be notified in early Spring if they are receiving an award.

AP Exams

- Exams will take place between May 2 - 13, 2022.

Community Service

- 30 hours of community service is a requirement for the Class of 2022. All forms must be completed and submitted to your counselor for approval.

Communication with Students

- A lot of the communication between the counselors and their seniors is done through email. It is imperative that students check their school email periodically in order to receive the most up-to-date information.
- The school's website is another source of information. Most forms and applications can be found on the guidance page at www.rpps.net
- Students and parents can follow the guidance department on Instagram @ *rp_guidance* for up-to-date information.
- Please do not hesitate to contact your child's counselor with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the year.