

Ridgefield Park Junior Senior High School

Guidance Department 201-807-2655

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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 periodically check the Guidance page on www.rpps.net for the most up-to-date information including forms, 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 begin meeting with their seniors to discuss their post high school plans and the college application process shortly after the start of school.
- Counselors will be introducing Naviance, a college and career readiness program, to all seniors in their English classes in September.
- The Student Activity Form for Transcript must be turned in to guidance no later than Friday, September 28th: This can be found on the school's guidance page at www.rpps.net. See Mrs. Emmets in guidance if you need help.

Financial Aid Presentations

- On Monday, September 24th the Guidance Department will host a **Financial Aid Night**. The guest speaker will inform parents of how to correctly fill out the FAFSA and the timeline of when to complete and submit financial documents.
- A **FAFSA completion workshop** for parents will be held on Thursday, November 1st where a HESAA representative will be available to help parents and students complete and submit the FAFSA that night! Sign up for this event will take place at the conclusion of the presentation on September 24th.
- **DO NOT MISS THESE VERY IMPORTANT EVENTS!!**

Bergen County College Fair

- Thursday, September 20, 2018 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- Rothman Center at Fairleigh Dickinson University – 100 University Plaza, Hackensack
- Approximately 225 2-year and 4-year colleges, nursing schools, business schools and trade school will be in attendance.

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's office as proof of their attendance. Please follow the steps outlined on 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 turn** around 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 7th.
- 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 6, 2018 @ RP! **It's not too late to register!!**
- SAT – November 3, 2018
- SAT – December 1, 2018 is the last chance to take the SAT. Registration www.collegeboard.org
- ACT – September 8, 2018
- ACT – October 27, 2018
- ACT – December 8, 2018 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 Banquet at the end of May, students must fill out the appropriate applications which can be found on the guidance page at www.rpps.net in January. All scholarship applications for the Awards Banquet are due February 1, 2019. Students will be notified in early Spring if they are receiving an award.

AP Exams

- Exams will take place between May 6 - 17, 2019.

Community Service

- The required 30 hours of community service should already be complete. All forms must be completed and submitted to your counselor for approval. This is a graduation requirement.

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 Twitter @rpguidance 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.