



COLLEGE INFORMATION FOR JUNIORS

**Getting a Jumpstart on the College
Application Process**

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AGENDA

WELCOME

JUNIOR YEAR-What to do Now

- Review College Entrance Exam Scores
- Senior Course Selection
- Parchment
- Kheaa-Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority
- Introspection and Exploration
- Research Colleges
- College Visits
- Summer Opportunities
- Common Application

LOOKING AHEAD TO SENIOR YEAR

- RESOURCES
- SENIOR INTERVIEWS
- COLLEGE APPLICATIONS
- COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS
- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
- FINANCIAL AID

REVIEW COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM SCORES

- All juniors now have at least one ACT score . Review to determine if you need to register to take the test again.

Kentucky ACT Benchmarks

English-18

Math-19

Reading-20

- Students whose scores do not meet benchmarks will be required to take developmental courses in college that will not count toward a degree.
- COMPASS will no longer be available to help students meet benchmarks.
- May 6th is the last day to register to take the ACT on June 11th

- ACT or SAT?
- Virtually all colleges will consider either the ACT or the SAT Reasoning test for admission.
- Many highly selective colleges require SAT subject tests in the subject of the student's proposed major of study.
- The SAT Reasoning Test has been redesigned. The first administration of the new test was on March 2016.
- An article comparing and contrasting the ACT and the SAT can be found here <http://convertyourscore.org/>

REVIEW SENIOR YEAR COURSE SELECTION

- The senior year is important academically.
- Rigor is important, but keep AP and honors classes to a manageable level and be realistic.
- Choose electives that reflect your interest or talent if possible.
- Stay focused and avoid the “senior slide”.

PARCHMENT

- Most colleges and universities are expecting to receive electronic transcripts.
- KDE has contracted with “Parchment” and the Kentucky colleges to send transcripts electronically.
- Students receive a code to set up an account and are able to send transcripts at no cost to colleges both in and out of state. They may also send it to their own e-mail address or access it on the “Parchment” site.
- <https://www.parchment.com/register>

Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority

- KHEAA is a valuable resource to students and parents during the college admissions process.
- Every student should create an account at <https://www.kheaa.com>
- The Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) is administered by KHEAA.
- Students who register have access to many resources and information about financial aid including a record of the KEES award.
- Amy Marvin Rose is the KHEAA representative for our region. We invite her to come to share her expertise with students and parents throughout the senior year. “Success as a Senior” is a timeline of the senior year and includes dates for the KHEAA presentations and workshops. [success as a senior](#)

EXPLORING FUTURE OPTIONS

- Learn about yourself
- What subjects are your favorites? Why?
- Do you work best with others or alone?
- Do you like to be outdoors or prefer to be inside?
- Evaluate your interests, passions, and talents. How have your courses helped you in determining a field of study?
- Take some career interest inventory assessments.
- Talk to people in careers that interest you.
- Job shadow in as many places as you can this summer.
Propose an internship.
- It's OK if you don't know what you want to study, and if you do...don't be upset if you change your mind. It's normal!

THE COLLEGE SEARCH

- Get Organized. Some type of calendar/planner is essential in keeping track of deadlines.
- Use a spreadsheet or other chart to compare and contrast the colleges in which you have interest.
- The best place to get information about a college is from the website. All college websites may be accessed from your Individual Learning Plan. <https://www.careercruising.com/ilp>
- Narrow down your list to 3-5 colleges where you will apply.
- Choose a couple of schools that would be considered “safety schools”, i.e. acceptance and affordability is sure.
- Choose a couple of schools that are considered “target schools”, i.e, schools that are somewhat selective and you need to aim well to be accepted.
- Choose one or two “reach schools”, i.e. your dream school or one for which your chances of acceptance are not impossible, but not great.
- The College Board has resources for your search: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

THE COLLEGE SEARCH (con't)

CONSIDER AND PRIORITIZE:

- Admission Factors
- Location
- Size
- Majors/academic programs available
- Clubs/sports/activities
- Safety of the campus
- Cost and scholarships available
- Co-ed or single sex
- Housing Options
- 2 year or 4 year
- Part time/full time

ADMISSION FACTORS

- Transcript
- Test Scores
- Supporting elements which include letters of recommendation, essays, resume, interviews
- Some schools use a very objective approach using a selection index that is a combination of test score and GPA
- Morehead State University uses a selection index.

(_____ High School GPA (unweighted) X 100) + (_____ ACT score X 10) = Admissions Index. At MSU the sum must be at least 500 to be admitted unconditionally. Students may be admitted with lower index with conditions.

COLLEGE VISITS

- Plan your visit and make an appointment with admissions office.
- Prepare in advance with an EEO for your absence to be excused.
- Take an official campus tour.
- Meet with the admissions and/or financial aid office.
- Meet with major department of interest.
- Observe a classroom setting in your intended major.
- Bring an unofficial transcript and a copy of the Russell High School Profile.
- Meet coaches if you are an athlete. Students who want to participate in collegiate athletics should register with NCAA www.eligibilitycenter.org or NAIA <http://www.naia.org>
- Take advantage of open houses for juniors.
- Sample the food, chat with current students, take pictures of campus.
- Schedule an overnight visit when possible.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

- Look into possible summer opportunities (i.e. internship/shadowing, summer college program, community service or employment)
- Prepare for upcoming ACTs or SATs:
 - Study Island
 - Online prep courses such as Princeton Review, Kaplan, ACT, or Collegeboard
 - Self study using ACT or SAT study guides (RHS library)
 - Free practice sites www.march2success.com and www.mhpracticeplus.com
- Work on your resume including activities, volunteerism, and honors/awards.
- Craft your personal statement and essays

THE COMMON APPLICATION

- The Common Application is a “one stop shop” for students who are applying to multiple schools.
- Some schools in Kentucky that accept the Common App. :
 - Centre College
 - Transylvania
 - University of Kentucky
- Many selective and/or out of state schools only accept the Common Application.

THE COMMON APPLICATION (con't)

- Students can create an account now.
- Complete profile information.
- Work on essays (the questions are the same for 2016-2017 as the prior year)
- The 2016-2017 Common Application will launch on August 1st
- Your account will roll over to the new year.
- College specific questions or supplements will NOT roll over so don't work ahead on those

THE COMMON APPLICATION ESSAY QUESTIONS

- Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
- Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma—anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
- Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

RESOURCES

Your Counselor

- Mrs. Perry A-K
- Mrs. McConda L-Z

The Counseling Office

- Mrs. Blankenship is the organizing force in our office!
She is the first point of contact for students .

The Counseling page on the RHS website.

www.russellind.kyschools.us/rhs

- Mrs. McConda and Mrs. Perry will visit senior English class often during the year to speak with you. “Success as a Senior” will be the first presentation.
- College Admissions Counselors are invited to speak with you’re here at school. Get to know them!

SENIOR INTERVIEW

- Your counselor wants to meet with you early in the year to discuss your future plans and help you with the college application process.
- You may set up a time to meet.
- Parents are invited and encouraged to meet along with the student.
- The Student Self-Assessment and Parent Assessment given during the “Success as a Senior” presentation will be very helpful to your counselor in representing you well in a letter of recommendation.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

- Once you have narrowed your list, begin the application process by accessing the application online at the college website, the Common Application, or paper application.
- AFTER you have applied, send your transcript via Parchment.
- If using the Common Application, your counselor will upload your transcript to the Common App. You do not need to send it to the schools.
- Test scores- the only score Parchment will send is the one you took here at school in March of your junior year. Many colleges will only accept scores from the testing agency. It is your responsibility to communicate with the school regarding your test scores.
- Follow up with your admissions counselor at each school to be sure your application is complete.
- Your resume, essays, letters of recommendation are often the components that “tip the scale” in favor of your acceptance at selective colleges and for scholarships.
- Aim to have all applications completed by Thanksgiving.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS (con't)

- •Early Decision – binding agreement
- Can only apply to one college early decision.
- •Early Action – non binding agreement – no limits
- •Rolling Admissions –Applications are reviewed as they receive them.
- •Regular Admissions – Specific deadline date for all applications. Applications reviewed after the date.
- Apply to schools where you have made contact with someone and they have name recognition. Stealth applications are those that are submitted to schools that would have no record of the student's interest.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

- Merit Based scholarships are automatic based on GPA and test scores. There is not a separate application.
- Competitive scholarships require a separate application in most cases. Essays, resumes, special talents/skills, an interview or audition, and letters of recommendation are often part of the process.
- Departmental scholarships are scholarships within the specific department of the student's choice of majors. A separate application and other components may apply. Search for these on the college website.
- This is one reason why it's important to form a relationship with the admissions counselor at each school, so he or she can advocate for you to receive the best award package!

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Teacher Recommendations (1 – 2)

- Academic appraisal of ability to do college level work
- Core academic areas or areas relating to major
- Junior year teachers preferred

Counselor Recommendation/School Report

- Required component
- Broader appraisal, taking into account overall navigation of high school
- Accompanies transcript and school profile

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (con't)

- Some scholarships require letters from community members.
- Choose someone who knows you well that is not a family member.
- Stay away from “celebrity recs”. Most students do not have a personal connection to the state representative, mayor, or Oprah. If you do and they know you well enough to write specifically about you, then go for it.

FINANCIAL AID

- FAFSA-the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- There are changes ahead for the FAFSA.
- The new timeline begins October 1, 2016.
- Students and parents will need to create an FSA ID and remember the e-mail they use as well as the username and password. Write it down or take a picture.
- There is much information about the FAFSA in the Getting In book. Students will get an updated version of the book early in the fall.

FINANCIAL AID (con't)

- Other Scholarships
- The counseling office posts scholarships all year long. Check the bulletin board in the hallway and the school website. Mrs. Blankenship also sends them to the senior English teachers to post in their classrooms.
- Competition spans national, state, regional, and local talent pools.
- Applying for scholarships could be a full time job during the senior year. Students must manage time and prioritize.
- Remember, the counseling office has much of the information you need.
- There are also websites that list scholarship opportunities such as www.fastweb.com . Do NOT pay to have someone to find scholarships for you.

SPRING 2017

- Financial aid award letters. Check Getting In
- Housing
- Notify all colleges to which you have been accepted to confirm or deny the offer. In other words, RSVP.
- May 1st –National Reply Date

REMIND 101

- We are asking parents and students to sign up for Remind 101-Class of 2017.
- We want to keep you informed of upcoming events and information that is relevant to seniors.
- [..\Desktop\Remind 101.pdf](#)