



# DAVID A. STEIN RIVERDALE KINGSBRIDGE ACADEMY

## *Junior College Meeting*

*March 13th, 2025*

*Presented by Ms. Byrd  
Ms. Lockhart-Lee  
Ms. Payne  
Ms. Lustig*



# Welcome

- Getting ready for college is an exciting process.
- Senior year is filled with anxiety, excitement, happiness and tears.
- It is bittersweet.
- Your children are growing up and moving on .....life changes, it's all good.
- The guidance department is here to help and support your child in this process.

SAT  
School  
Day on  
*Wednesday,*  
*March*  
*26th, 2025*

- Exam will be given here at RKA
- All 11<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking the SAT
- NEW: this year, all SAT exams be given using a DIGITAL format.
- **Students will be testing in 2 groups, 8:00 am and 11:45 am**
  - **Students with approved accommodations will be testing in the morning session**
  - **Students should have received an email earlier today with their session**

How long is the exam?

- Standard Time - 2 hours 15 minutes
- Extended Time - 3 hours 20 minutes

Who is proctoring?

- Our teachers

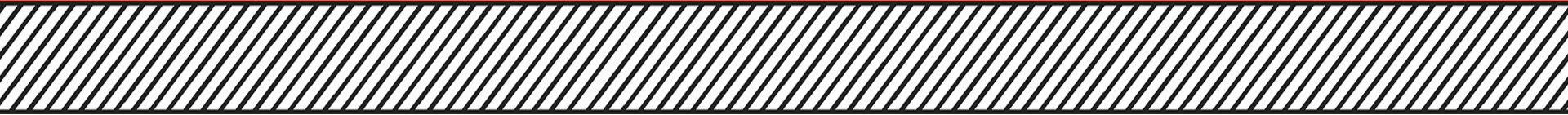
SAT  
School  
Day on  
*Wednesday,*  
*March*  
*26th, 2025*

Materials to bring with you on SAT  
School Day:

- Pens & Pencils
- Graphing Calculator
  - There is a calculator within the app
- Water Bottle

**Do not be late or you may not be allowed in. Once the exam has begun, no one else can be allowed in**

# What needs to be done?



## What we do:

- Register all students in 11th grade cohort (This has been done)
- Proctor exams
- Provide Devices

## What students/parents need to do:

- **Login to your College Board account to make sure you can access it**
  - **This is the only way you will get your score**
- Download Bluebook on your non-DOE device
  - Take the available Practice tests
- Discuss/Explore information and links sent home and decide if you want your child to provide their cell phone number to get scores via **Big Future School**
- Get a good night's sleep on March 25th and **arrive to school by 8:00 or 11:40 on March 26th.**



# Fee Waivers????

- This exam does not count toward your “fee waiver” limit.
- If your child has been approved for free or reduced price lunch they may qualify for a fee waiver on other SATs, that includes an enhanced question and answer score report.
- Students who do not qualify for a fee waiver can purchase the enhanced score report on their College Board account for \$16 (*price is subject to change*).
- Fee Waiver students must see their school counselor to check their eligibility and get a fee waiver code that must be entered on the student’s college board account.
- Parents-if you have not completed the [Income Verification Form](#) please do so ASAP, that is how we determine fee waiver eligibility.

# Additional Upcoming Events:

- **Advanced Class Info Sessions:** began Monday, March 3rd until Friday, March 15th
- **College Trip to UAlbany + RPI:** A few spots are left for the college trip on March 25th. Please see Ms. Payne ASAP if interested.
- **SUNY Junior Assembly:** Date TBD
- **CUNY Junior Assembly:** Date Pending
- **Parent Teacher Conferences:**
  - Thursday, March 20th from 5:30 PM - 8 PM
  - Friday, March 21st from 1 PM - 3 PM
- **Course Request Form:** *due by Monday, March 17th*

# SCOIR

Scoir



# Most Important Part of the College Process

- Students should have a professional email just for the college process. The nycstudents email is deactivated after graduation.
- Once students apply, check your email frequently, that is the only way colleges will notify you if something is missing.



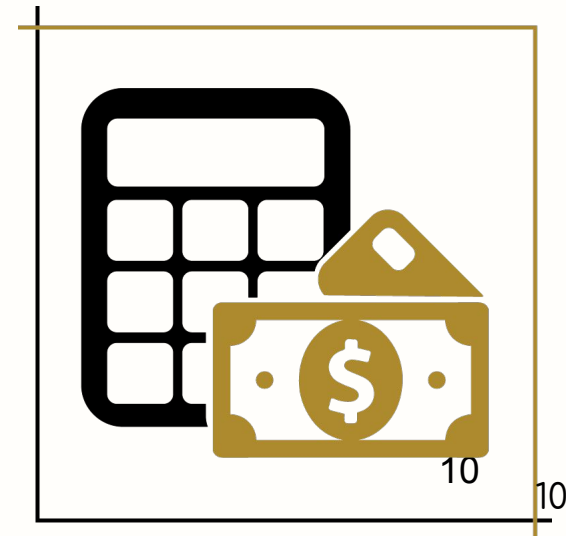
[CLICK HERE  
FOR STEP BY  
STEP TO  
CREATE A  
PERSONAL  
EMAIL](#)

# Most Important Part of the College Process Continued...

Pay attention to deadlines—Deadlines are important, failure to meet a deadline can mean that you have missed your opportunity to be a candidate for the college of your choice.



\$\$\$ Pay the application fees—Failure to pay the application fee means that your application will not be read until the fee is paid.



# What Colleges Look For

- Colleges are interested in the academic rigor of the courses the student has taken (AP, Dual Enrollment, Honors).
- Colleges look at student's cumulative high school Grade Point Average (GPA,) and Standardized test scores.
  - [SUNY Profile](#) & [CUNY Profile](#)

## **Standardized Exams (many schools are moving to exam optional)**

- **SAT**: The SAT reflects the skills and knowledge that are most critical for college readiness and success. Students are tested in English comprehension and mathematics.
- SAT is ALL multiple choice. The highest score for each section is 800. The highest combined score is 1600.
- \*Students should take the SAT test before the end of his/her junior year and again at the beginning of senior year prior to December.
- \* The [SAT Registration Fee](#) is \$68.

# What Colleges Look For Continued...

- **ACT**: is a content-based test which tests the curriculum taught in high school.
- Includes a science reasoning test
- lasts about three hours
- Highest composite score is 36
- Writing portion is optional
- The **ACT Registration Fee** is: \$94 with the writing, \$69 without
- All colleges will accept either the SAT or ACT score result however some special college programs may require both scores.



# What Colleges Look For Continued...

- **AP exams:** Given at the end of the AP course in May. Scoring a 4 or 5 will usually result in receiving college credit for the course, but the credit will be determined by the college the student enrolls in.
- To find out which colleges accept which exams and scores, please [click here](#).



# Important Notes to Keep in Mind Regarding Test Scores:

- **SUNY**: as of right now, SUNY has temporarily suspended SAT/ACT testing requirements for students applying for admission to a SUNY bachelor's degree-granting college. You may now decide whether or not to include your scores for admission consideration at each college to which you apply.
- **CUNY**: Effective through Spring 2027 admission cycles, students will have the option to submit SAT or ACT exam scores as part of their CUNY application.

[SUNY Testing Info.](#)

[CUNY Testing Info.](#)

# What Colleges Look For Continued...

## The Student Essay:

- This is a student's chance to express how he/she thinks and what makes him/her different.
- Some colleges provide students with a list of topics, others leave it up to the student to decide
- **2025-2026 Common Application Essay Prompts:**
  - [Click Here for the Essay Prompts](#)
  - Common Application essay prompts usual remain the same as the previous years. Students should begin to write their college essay over the summer. Choosing a few prompts is a good way to start.
- **Helpful Websites:** [College Essay Guy](#), [College Essay Guy–21 Essay Topics that Worked](#), [John Hopkins–Essays That Worked](#)

# What Colleges Look For Continued...

## **Interviews:**

Some selective colleges require an interview with either an admissions officer or an alum. Tips for student's interview: dress properly, show an interest in the college, ask thoughtful questions, arrive on time, be polite and send a thank you note to the interviewer after your interview.

**Expressed Student Interest:** Attending a tour or information session in person or virtual, speaking with a college representative at a college fair. Reaching out to an admissions person to ask questions. These actions must be taken by the student not the parent.

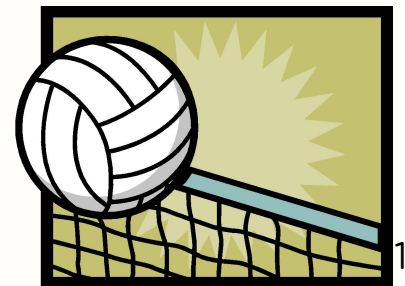
## **Recommendation Letters:**

- One to two teacher(s) and one counselor recommendation.
- Students should request letters from teachers with whom they have had a good relationship with and with whom they did well.
- Students applying with the Common App must obtain teacher emails so teacher recommendations can be submitted electronically. It is advisable to request a recommendation from a senior year or junior year teacher.



# What Colleges Look For Continued...

- Extracurricular Activities: clubs, teams, internships, national honor society, volunteer service and other activities, get involved this year in online clubs
- Your extra-curricular activities should show a consistent pattern of your interests, leadership abilities, talents and concern for others.





# Methods of Applying to College

- Most colleges require that students apply online. Online applications can be found here:

- [CommonApp.org](https://CommonApp.org)
- [CommonBlackCollegeApp.com](https://CommonBlackCollegeApp.com)
- [CUNY.edu](https://CUNY.edu)
- [SUNY.edu](https://SUNY.edu)
- [Coalitionforcollegeaccess.org](https://Coalitionforcollegeaccess.org)
- Individual college websites



***GET EDUCated!***





# Choosing Colleges

- Your academic profile, GPA, and standardized test scores (when required) must meet up with the academic profile of the colleges you are applying to.
- **SAFETY/Likely**: schools that a student is relatively certain he/she will be accepted to and can afford.
- **TARGET**: schools that a student is likely to be accepted to - but are not definite and/or cost will be a factor.
- **REACH/Dream**: schools that are not likely to accept student based on his/her academic profile.

# Application Options

## **Early Decision (ED) is a binding decision.**

- This is a desirable option for students who have strong academic credentials and a preference for one particular college.
- If a student is offered admission then she/he must withdraw all other applications.
- If money is an issue, then ED is not a wise decision. Financial aid may not be as generous as one would hope. Student will hear a decision by mid December.
- **Deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup> or November 15<sup>th</sup> to apply for ED.**

## **Early Action (EA) is not binding.**

- It follows the same application and notification timetable as ED, but it allows students to make his/her decision by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Students must be ready to submit their applications **by November 1<sup>st</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> depending on the college deadline.**

## **Regular Admission**

- Most private college/university applications are due on January 1<sup>st</sup> or January 15<sup>th</sup>
- All parts of the application must be completed and submitted by each school's deadline.

\*\*\*The guidance office encourages all applications to be completed and submitted prior to or by the Thanksgiving weekend.\*\*\*

# How should your child start looking for a college?

- Students need to do a self assessment.
  - Consider [Career Exploration](#) or [Career Zone](#) or [SCOIR Career Assessment](#)
- What is their favorite subject? What do they enjoy studying or learning about?
- Do they have any passions, sports, music, photography, literature?
- Do they enjoy volunteer work, taking part in theatrical performances or playing sport?
- Do they enjoy working with people or do they enjoy more solitary individual activities?
- Do they want a completely new experience or do they want to have a similar to high school experience.

These are questions they should ask themselves to try to understand what type of college environment they may wish to find and what they want to study when they enroll. This will help them as they explore college options.

Picking a college is part of that self-discovery process. Who do you want to be, and how will that institution help you become who you want to be?

# Where to Get Information about Colleges

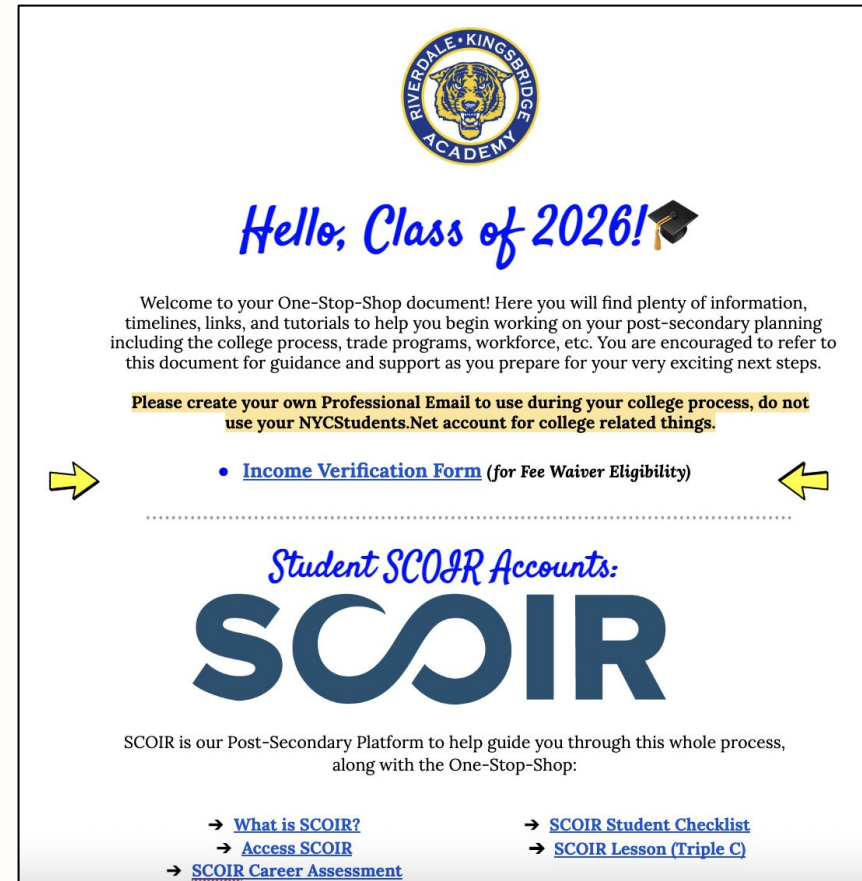



- **College Search Engines:**
  - [BigFuture Guide](#) (using College Board account)
  - [Common App Explore](#)
  - [Niche](#)
  - [College Data](#)
  - [CUNY Explore Page](#)
  - [Which SUNY are you?](#)
- **College In-Person & Virtual Fairs**—Attend and speak to representatives from colleges
  - [NACAC Virtual College Fair](#) (*various dates - NY date is April 6th*)
- **College Virtual Tours**—Attend virtual college tours to see different campuses
  - [YouVisit.com](#)
- **College admissions offices**—Provide in-depth college advice
- **Meet with your school counselor** to start selecting your colleges
- **Junior Assembly** – Spring term, visits from CUNY and SUNY representatives
- **Senior Assembly** – Beginning of September in the senior year



# Where to Get Information about Colleges Continued....

- The [College One-Stop-Shop](#) Google Doc which contains an overall guide, links and resources to help guide through the process will be shared with Juniors shortly
- **The One-Stop-Shop Includes:**
  - A general timeline to follow
  - Step-by-step Tutorials (for CUNY, SUNY, Common App, and financial aid applications as they become available)
  - College-related terms to be familiar with, links for college research, opportunity programs and tours
  - Other Post-Secondary opportunities
- Students will be scheduled for 1-on-1 meetings **after** they complete their Student College Profile Form and Course Request Form.





*Hello, Class of 2026!* 🎓

Welcome to your One-Stop-Shop document! Here you will find plenty of information, timelines, links, and tutorials to help you begin working on your post-secondary planning including the college process, trade programs, workforce, etc. You are encouraged to refer to this document for guidance and support as you prepare for your very exciting next steps.

**Please create your own Professional Email to use during your college process, do not use your NYCStudents.Net account for college related things.**

➡ • [Income Verification Form](#) (for Fee Waiver Eligibility) ⬅

*Student SCOIR Accounts:*

**SCOIR**

SCOIR is our Post-Secondary Platform to help guide you through this whole process, along with the One-Stop-Shop:

→ [What is SCOIR?](#) → [SCOIR Student Checklist](#)  
→ [Access SCOIR](#) → [SCOIR Lesson \(Triple C\)](#)  
→ [SCOIR Career Assessment](#)



# Factors to Consider in Your College Search

- ❑ Academics— programs available, percentage of graduation in four years
- ❑ Location/ distance— urban vs. rural
- ❑ Size and Student Population
- ❑ Facilities— library, network system, recreational facilities
- ❑ Living Conditions/Safety
- ❑ Financial Factors— tuition, room and board, availability of financial aid



# Estimated Cost for Year 2025

**\*\*These are estimates only each college is different\*\***

## LIVING AWAY FROM HOME (NY STATE RESIDENT)

	<b>CUNY</b> (Example used: Hunter)	<b>SUNY</b> (Example used: Binghamton)	<b>PRIVATE COLLEGE</b> (NY REGION) (Example used: Manhattan)
Tuition	\$6,930	\$ 7,070	\$50,400
Fees (average)	\$225.10	\$3,497	\$2,875 + <i>New Admit -</i> \$2,500
Housing	\$12,690-17,680*	\$19,477*	\$11,550*
Books and supplies	\$1,364*	\$1,000*	\$1,200*
Meals	\$3,522*	included*	\$7,600*
Transportation	\$1,122*	\$150*	\$1,200*
Personal Expenses	\$4,533*	\$750*	\$1,200*
<b>TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>\$8,746 (Commuter)</b> <b>\$24,958 (Living on Campus)</b>	<b>\$30,044 (on campus)</b>	<b>\$64,825 (on campus)</b>

# Academic-Related Programs/Scholarships:

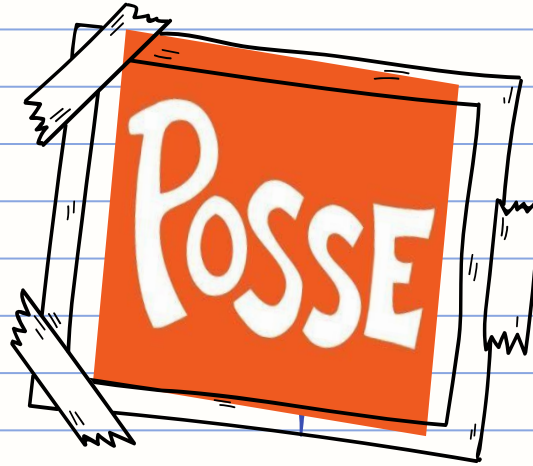


## Macaulay Honors

An honors program offered at select CUNY schools (Baruch, Brooklyn, City, CSI, Hunter, John Jay, Lehman & Queens) which provides full tuition, study grants, and a free laptop.

Eligibility: 90+ GPA

[Click here](#) for more information  
[Click here](#) for FAQ about Macaulay  
[Click here](#) for upcoming sessions



## POSSE:

A scholarship that offers full-tuition coverage for all four years (*housing not included*). Students must be nominated for this scholarship by their high school.

Eligibility: demonstrate academic potential, Leaders in their high schools and communities, teamwork

[Click here](#) to learn more  
[Click here](#) for eligibility info.  
[Click here](#) for participating colleges

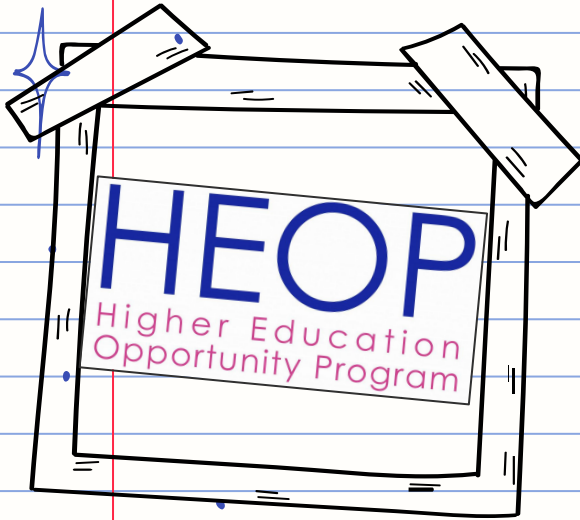


## Quest Bridge:

A college-match scholarship that offers a full ride (*tuition and housing*) for all four years. Very competitive and must meet academic (top 5-10% in graduating class) and financial qualifications.

[Click here](#) to learn more  
[Click here](#) for eligibility info.  
[Click here](#) for participating colleges

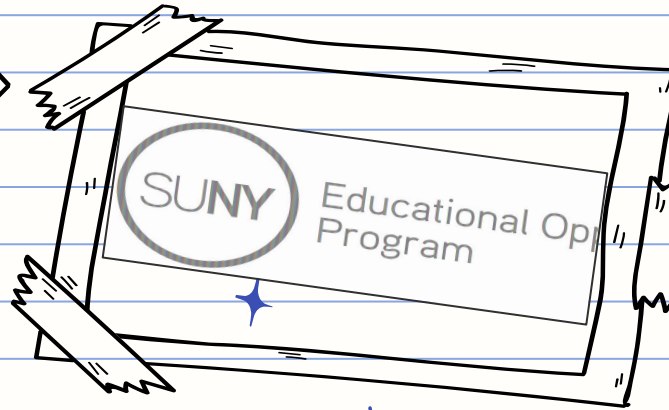
# College Opportunity Programs:



## HEOP (Private):

The Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) is a partnership between the State of New York and its independent/private colleges that provides scholarships to economically and educationally disadvantaged residents.

- [Click here](#) for more information and eligibility
- [Click here](#) for a list of colleges/universities



## EOP (SUNY):

The State University of New York's Educational Opportunity Program (which are for SUNY colleges) provides access, academic support and financial aid to students who show promise for succeeding in college but who may not have otherwise been offered admission. Available primarily to full-time, matriculated students, the program supports students throughout their college careers within the University.

- [Click here](#) for more information and eligibility



## SEEK (CUNY):

The SEEK Programs (which are for 4-year CUNY colleges) is to assist in providing equality of higher education to students who otherwise would not have such access. Program efforts are intended to increase the level of education, social capital, and workforce expertise in our City and State.

- [Click here](#) for more information and eligibility

# How Can Parents Help their Children in the College Admission Process?

- Become familiar with the college admission process.
- Help your child to make his/her college list (a realistic list).
- Start to prepare your tax information for the FAFSA in your child's junior year and file as early as possible senior year.
- Be honest to your child about your family's financial strength.
- Purchase stamps and envelopes for your child.
- Take your child to visit colleges or attend virtual college tours with them.
- Discuss where and how far away they can expect to go.
- The most important thing you can do is to be there and to support them in their efforts.
- LISTEN to your child in the options they may want to explore.



# Junior Year Calendar

## March 26th 2025: Take the SAT @ RKA for FREE.

- **May:** consider retaking SAT and/or take the ACT, take AP exams, review your college list with your school counselor
- Create FSA ID
- **June:** Take all regents (if applicable, TBD), plan summer college visits, many schools are starting to once again offer in person visits or virtually, refer to links at the end
- Begin writing your college essay
- Request recommendation letters from teachers

### Summer:

- Visit colleges.
- Request interviews.
- Work on your college essay.
- Study for the SAT tests.
- Register for upcoming exams in August, October, November 2025.
- Enrich your extracurricular activities.
- Remind your parents to prepare tax information (2024 tax returns).
- Search for financial aid and scholarship information.

# Senior Year Calendar

## September:

- Inform your school counselor immediately if you are planning to apply EA/ED.
- Register with NCAA if you are an athlete.
- Meet with your school counselor to review your transcript, academic standing and schedule to make sure you are on track to graduate in June 2026.
- Finalize your college essay
- Attend in-school meetings with college representatives

## October:

- This year FAFSA and TAP (financial aid application for Federal and NYS aid) has changed significantly. More information on release date for 2026-2027 application will be forthcoming.
- Complete the CSS Profile (a financial aid application required by many private colleges).
  - CSS Profile opens October 1st, [cssprofile.collegeboard.org](https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org)
  - Students will be using their College Board account
- **2024 Tax Returns will be used for each application.**

## October continued:

- Attend the Senior Assembly, Senior College Night, and the Financial Aid Workshop. Take SAT/ACT, attend RKA College Fair. Notify your counselor of your intention to apply ED or EA.
- Begin applying to colleges.

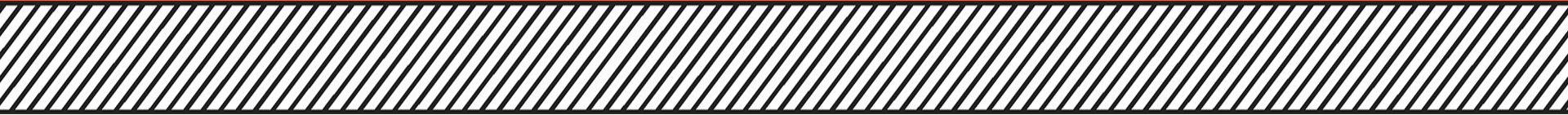
## November:

- Deadline for ED/EA is **November 1st or 15th**
- Visit colleges, and attend in-school meetings.
- Continue to submit college applications.
- Remind teachers to send recommendation letters.
- Send SAT/ACT scores to colleges if applicable.
- Submit regular admissions applications by the end of the month.

## December:

- If you did not complete your applications by Thanksgiving, you must complete and submit before the Christmas break.
- EA/ED students will hear from the colleges in mid-December.

# Senior Year Calendar Continued...



## January:

- Check status of applications on college website/student portals
- Make sure all materials have been submitted and received.
- Submit any additional information, ex: new SAT/ACT scores not previously sent.

## February:

- Mid-Year reports are uploaded by school counselor as soon as they become available.
- Make sure all financial aid information is completed and submitted—FAFSA, TAP, CSS Profile, and EOP/HEOP/SEEK applications.

## March:

- Look over financial aid packages.
- Visit colleges you are considering.

## April:

- Most colleges will email or mail their regular admission decisions this month.

## May:

- May 1st is the National Reply by date.
- Notify colleges of your decisions.
- Send a deposit to the college whose offer you have accepted (a student can only accept admission to one college).
- Inform other college admission offices about your decision, so they can offer your seat to someone else.
- Complete all onboarding steps for the college you are attending (such as sending out Immunization Records)
- Take AP exams.

## June:

- Notify your school counselor where you will be attending in the fall
- Bring an envelope addressed to the college.
- School counselors will mail final transcripts over the summer as soon as they become available.

# Senior Dues / Activities

## Senior Dues for the Current Class of 2024:

- **\$350 (3 Installments of \$125. \$125, \$100)**
  - Cap, Gown, Diploma Case
  - Yearbook
  - Senior Spirit Items
    - Two T-Shirts
    - Senior Hoodie
    - Second Item (PJs, Blanket, etc.)
    - Graduation Facility Rental & Decorations
    - Senior Portrait Sitting Fee
    - Senior Awards
    - Senior Spirit Days
      - Triple C Activities
      - Senior Breakfast
      - Decision Day
      - Yearbook Day

## Optional Items/Events:

- Senior Pictures - prices vary depending on package selection
- Senior Dinner - \$50
- Senior Prom - \$175
- Senior Day Trip - \$75
- Senior Trip \$75
  - Dorney Park
- Senior Ring - prices vary depending on ring selection (\$350 - \$1,000)

# Looking Ahead

Senior Year is exciting and expensive!!! Children need to understand what you can and cannot afford and how to make wise financial decisions. This summer is a great time for them to begin to earn money.

- » SAT/ACT Fees

- Test fees
- Scores need to be sent to colleges by YOU

- » College Applications fees

- » College Visits

- » College deposits

- » Senior dues (TBD)

- » Prom (TBD)

- » Senior trips (TBD)





**Graduation is just around the corner !!!!**

Relax, take a deep breath and get ready for an exciting senior year!

# Class of 2025 College Acceptances Thus Far



- Brown University
- New York University
- Rutgers University
- SUNY Brockport
- University of Miami
- University at Albany
- Stony Brook University
- Utica University
- University of Buffalo
- Brandeis University
- Boston College (QuestBridge)
- SUNY New Paltz
- CUNY Guttman Community College
- CUNY Baruch College
- CUNY Lehman College
- CUNY City College
- St. John's University

# Resources

- ❑ [College Board College Timeline for Juniors](#)
- ❑ [College Board Website](#)
- ❑ [College Board AP Scores & Colleges](#)
- ❑ [ACT Website](#)
- ❑ [Test-Optional Colleges \(list gets updated regularly\)](#)
- ❑ [List of Early Action Schools by State](#)
- ❑ [List of Early Decision Schools by State](#)
- ❑ [Common App](#)
- ❑ [Common Black College App](#)
- ❑ [CUNY](#)
- ❑ [SUNY](#)
- ❑ [Common App Essay Prompts](#)
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- ❑ [College Data](#)
- ❑ [CUNY Explore Page](#)
- ❑ [Which SUNY are you?](#)
- ❑ [NACAC Virtual College Fair](#)
- ❑ [YouVisit-Virtual Tours](#)
- ❑ [College Board's Opportunities Scholarships](#)
- ❑ [RKA Website](#)
- ❑ [Income Verification Form](#)

Each are  
clickable  
links

# Contact Information

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