

# DAVID A. STEIN RIVERDALE KINGSBRIDGE ACADEMY

## JUNIOR COLLEGE NIGHT



# 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.

# School Day SAT on March 4<sup>th</sup>

- Exam will be given here at RKA
- All 11<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking the SAT
- It will NOT include the optional essay
- It will be a regular school day for all other students (12<sup>th</sup> graders on a trip)

# School day sat on March 4<sup>th</sup>. cont.

How long will it take?

- SAT – about 4 hours 15 minutes
- Students with approved College Board accommodations will take longer
- Students are dismissed at the end of the exam

Who is proctoring?

- Our teachers, mostly HS

# What needs to be done?

## What we do

- **Register all students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade cohort on our roster by mid-February**
- **Do “Stand-by” registration for students who enter our school after mid-February**
- **Complete SAT answer sheet/ questionnaire during Triple C day (Monday)**
- **Proctor exams**
- **Send out exams for scoring**

## What students/parents need to do

- **Set up your College Board account**
  - **This is the only way you will get your score**
  - **This should already have been done**
- **Complete questionnaire using correct name, address, DOB etc.**
- **Purchase a calculator if you do not already have one**
- **Set up Khan Academy account if you choose to do so**
- **Get a good night’s sleep on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and arrive to school by 7:50 on March 4<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Bring all required supplies (pens, pencils, graphing calculator, registration ticket) for the exam**
- **As per College Board, schools MAY NOT provide calculators for the SAT**

# 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,) Class Rank, and Standardized test scores.
- **SAT**: The redesigned SAT will more closely reflect the skills and knowledge that are most critical for college readiness and success. The assessment will require students to have a stronger command of fewer topics.
- The highest score for each section is 800. Essay is optional. The highest combined score is 1600, the essay is graded separately.

\*Students should take the SAT or ACT before the end of his/her junior year and again at the beginning of senior year prior to December.

\* Cost is \$ 47.50 without essay --\$64.50 with essay section 6

# What Colleges Look For

- **SAT II**: subject tests are one hour multiple choice tests.
- Subject tests fall into five subject areas: English, History, Math, Science and Foreign Language.
- Students applying to selective colleges are advised to take at least two SAT II tests (some colleges require 3 SAT II)- check with each college to see which ones they require.
- Subject SAT's should be taken after completion of an AP course. May or June exam dates.
- Registration Fee **\$26.00**(This covers one test, you can take up to three exams on one day, each additional exam costs \$22 per test. Language Tests with Listening: \$26 additional per test.

# WHAT COLLEGES LOOK FOR

- **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 part is optional
- **Cost is \$67.50 with the writing \$50.50 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

## The Student Essay:

- The essay is a student's chance to express how he/she thinks and what makes him/her different
- Some colleges have additional or “supplemental” questions
- Some colleges provide students with a list of topics, others leave it up to the student to decide
- [2020-2021 Common App Essay Prompts](#)
- Reference Books: *College Essays that made a difference 6th Edition*, The Princeton Review
- *On Writing the College Application Essay*, Harry Bauld, Collins Reference

# What Colleges Look For

## **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.

## **Recommendation Letters:**

One or more teacher 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. All other students must provide each teacher with a postage stamped envelope addressed to each college.

# What Colleges Look For

- Extracurricular Activities: clubs, teams, internships, volunteer service and other activities
- Your extra-curricular activities should show a consistent pattern of your interests, leadership abilities, talents and concern for others.



# Where to Get Information about College

- College Websites
- College Fairs –attend and speak to representatives from colleges
- College admissions offices– provide in depth college advice
- College visits and tours
- Meet with your guidance 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
- College virtual tours

# Where to Get Information about College

- U.S. News & World Report 2020 Edition, America's Best Colleges
- *A Is For Admission*, by Michele A. Hernandez
- *Acing The College Application*, by Michele A. Hernandez
- *Colleges That Change Lives*, by Loren Pope
- *The Best 380 Colleges*, Princeton Review

# 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

# Choosing colleges

- Your academic profile, GPA, and SAT/ACT scores must meet up with the academic profile of the colleges your are applying to.
- **SAFETY:** 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.
- **Reach/ Dream:** schools that are not likely to accept student based on his/her academic profile.

# Methods of applying to college

- Most colleges require that students apply online-however paper applications are available for some colleges.
- Most widely used application portals are:
  - COMMONAPP.ORG
  - CUNY.EDU
  - SUNY.EDU

# 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.

# APPLICATION OPTIONS

- **Early Action (EA)** is not binding and 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 or 15 depending on the college deadline .

# APPLICATION OPTIONS

- **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 the Thanksgiving weekend.

# MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE COLLEGE PROCESS

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.

# MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE COLLEGE PROCESS

- Students may want to create a new professional email just for the college process
- Once students apply, check your email frequently, that is how colleges will notify you if something is missing.



# Estimated Cost for Year 2019

<b>LIVING AWAY FROM HOME (NY STATE RESIDENT)</b>			
	<b>CUNY</b>	<b>SUNY</b>	<b>PRIVATE COLLEGE (NY REGION)</b>
Tuition	\$6,738	\$6,870	\$38,200
Fees (average)	\$475	\$1,610	\$3,212
Housing	\$11,422	\$13,310	\$15,600
Books and supplies	\$1,364	\$1,350	\$1,200
Meals	\$2,170	included	Included with housing
Transportation	\$1,088	\$1,110	\$600
Personal Expenses	\$4,387	\$1,640	\$2,000
<b>TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>\$16,608 (Commuter) \$28,401 (Living on Campus)</b>	<b>\$25,890( on campus)</b>	<b>\$60,812 ( On campus)</b>

# 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.

# How Can Parents Help their Children?

- Be honest to your child about your family finances.
- Take your child to visit colleges. Many colleges now have virtual tours for students who cannot visit in person.
- Discuss where and how far away they can expect to go.
- Complete your parent brag sheet, it will be sent home with your child when counselors meet with them for college selection.
- Make sure children are comfortable sending appropriate emails, making phone calls and advocating for themselves.
- Teach them the proper way to address an envelope.
- The most important thing you can do is to be there and to support them in their efforts.

# Junior Year Calendar

- March 4<sup>th</sup> 2020: Take the SAT @ RKA for free.
- May: Take SAT and/or SAT Subject tests, take AP exams, review your college list with the counselor.
- June: Take SAT, SAT Subject tests and/or ACT. Take all regents, plan summer college visits. Take SAT II exams.

Summer 2020-

Visit colleges. Request interviews. **Work on your college essay.** Study for the SAT tests. **Register for upcoming exams in August, October, November 2020.** Enrich your extracurricular activities. Remind your parents to prepare tax information. Search for financial aid and scholarship information. Make sure your RKA brag sheet is up to date.

# Senior Year Calendar

**September:** Attend in-school meetings with college representatives, inform your counselors immediately if you are planning to apply EA/ED. Check your transcript with your counselor. Check your course schedule to make sure you are on track to graduate. Register with NCAA if you are an athlete.

**October:** Complete the FAFSA and TAP (financial aid application for Federal and NYS aid.) Complete the CSS Profile (a financial aid application required by many private colleges). **CSS Profile and FAFSA application opens October 1<sup>st</sup>. Use your taxes from 2019 to file for both.**

# Senior Year Calendar

**October:** Attend the Senior Assembly, Senior College Night, and the Financial Aid Workshop. Take SAT/ACT, attend RKA College Fair.

**November:** Deadline for **ED/EA is November 1<sup>st</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>**, visit colleges, and attend in-school meetings. Work on college essays and college applications. Remind teachers to send recommendation letters. Send SAT/ACT scores to colleges via testing websites. 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

**January:** Check status of applications on college website, make sure all materials have been submitted and received. Submit any additional information, ex: SAT or ACT scores not previously sent.

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

**March:** Visit colleges you are considering.

**April:** Most colleges will email or mail their regular admission decisions this month.

# Senior Year Calendar

**May: May 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Take AP exams.

**June:** Notify your counselor where you will be attending in the fall, bring an envelope addressed to the college. Counselors will mail final transcripts over the summer as soon as they become available.

# 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.

- » College Applications fees
- » College Visits
- » College deposits
- » Senior dues (Approx \$350)
- » SAT/ACT Fees
- » Prom
- » Senior trips



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

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