RRHS Counselor Corner – March 2024
Updated: February 29, 2024

http://www.rrcs.org/HS_Guidance.aspx

Programming and Resources for Seniors

FAFSA for Seniors
In late 2020, the US Congress passed a law requiring significant changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) is calling this revised edition the Better FAFSA. Some of these changes included a complete revamp of the technology platform that houses the FAFSA, a reduction of the number of questions that must be answered by the parents and students, and a more secure FSA ID sign-in system. Due to these and other changes, FSA has announced the Better FAFSA opened on December 31, 2023. Financial aid at colleges tends to be disbursed in the month or two immediately following that date. Both student and one parent must have an FSA ID in order to apply. Please see https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid for more information. If you need assistance, please be sure to schedule an appointment with Mrs. Martha Basile, our College Now representative. You can find information at: https://www.rrcs.org/CollegeNow.aspx.

ED Moves Expected ISIR Delivery to First Half of March, Likely Pushing Aid Offers to April
The US Department of Education (ED) announced that colleges and universities will receive Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) applicant data beginning in the **first half of March**, *up to six weeks later than the expected January 31 date*, which was already delayed by the later opening of the 2024-25 FAFSA. Today's statement said the delay was due to the need to update the federal processing system to include the recently revised data tables used in the Student Aid Index calculation. The updated tables account for inflation and will yield approximately $1.8 million in additional need-based federal aid, ED said.

Scholarships
Students should log in to their Clever account to account Naviance. Once on the Homepage, click the "Colleges" tab at the top of the screen. Then, under *Scholarships & Money*, navigate to Scholarship List. Here you can either look for College-Specific Scholarships, or click on "Local and Regional Scholarships" to access over 150 that we have shared with you. A great option is to sort by Deadline to see upcoming scholarships that may interest you.

Another option is to navigate to "Colleges", then under *Scholarships & Money*, there is the "National Scholarship Search", powered by Sallie Mae, containing over 3.5 million scholarships worth over $18 billion.

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NCAA
Seniors who are interested or planning to participate in athletics at the college level should be sure to visit the NCAA Eligibility Center to create their account at: https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/.

Programming and Resources for all students

Upcoming College Fairs

CLEast College Fair
March 19, 2024
6:00-6:30 p.m. - College Panel
6:30-8:00 p.m. - College Fair
West Geauga High School
13401 Chillicothe Road
Chesterland, OH 44026
Up to 100 colleges attend each year.
To Register for the fair click HERE, then follow these instructions: Choose Students, Choose Ohio, Choose the CLEast Fair at West Geauga, then put in the rest of your information and you're all set! You will receive a barcode once you register, and StiveScan will also resend you a copy of your barcode two hours before the event starts.

Northeast Ohio Learning Differences Symposium & College Fair
March 20, 2024
6:00-7:00 p.m. Speaker/College Panel
7:00-8:00 p.m. College Fair
Orange High School
32000 Chagrin Blvd
Pepper Pike, OH 44124
Learn about college support from the top College Support Programs in the country - 13 Colleges so far
Registration Not Required - Open to ALL

High School Tech Internship program
Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted, who serves as director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, recently announced the High School Tech Internship program is open for Ohio students to enroll. The goal of the program is to provide Ohio businesses with the tech talent they need while providing students with valuable work experience at an early age.

To enroll in the program, individual students or school districts must contact the intermediary in their region to be connected to a business that is hosting an internship experience.
Interns will perform job duties similar to what is expected of an entry-level employee in technology roles that focus on software development, data, cloud and IT infrastructure, cybersecurity, broadband/5G, advanced mobility, and other tech-focused roles.

Ohio employers hosting interns will be reimbursed up to 100% of the wages paid to interns (up to $5,000 per intern). Employers are also eligible to earn bonuses for each student who earns certain industry-recognized credentials. Interested businesses can contact the intermediary in their region to apply to host summer interns.

High School Tech Internship intermediaries allow the program to be administered seamlessly between schools and businesses. Intermediaries have several responsibilities to support the growth and administration of the internship program, including helping place students with participating employers.

Last year's High School Tech Internship program created the opportunity for 510 Ohio students to participate in internships with 141 employers across the state.

For more information on the program, visit the High School Tech Internship program webpage.

Naviance
Naviance Student is a comprehensive website that you can use to plan for college and a career while providing a service that we use in our office to track and analyze data about college and career plans, so it provides up-to-date information that is specific to our school. It allows you to:

> **Get involved in the planning and advising process** – Build a resume, complete online surveys, and manage timelines and deadlines for making decisions about colleges and careers
> **Research colleges** – Compare GPA, standardized test scores, and other statistics to actual historical data from our school for students who have applied and been admitted in the past
> **Research careers** – Research hundreds of careers and career clusters, and take career assessments
> **Create plans for the future** – Create goals and to-dos, and complete tasks assigned to you by the school to better prepare yourself for your future college and career goals

Naviance Student also lets us share information with you about upcoming meetings and events, local scholarship opportunities, and other resources for college and career information. You can also use the site to stay in communication with the counseling office.
Students are encouraged to review their Naviance account and complete all assigned tasks. Please log into your account via your Clever account. These tasks are designed to assist you better understand yourself and how you learn, aid you in the career exploration process, and provide you with detailed information in your college search.

College and Career Readiness Resources
RRCS Social and Emotional Readiness Plan:
https://www.rrcs.org/Downloads/2022-2023%20RRCS%20Social%20Emotional%20Readiness%20Overview.pdf
RRHS 4 year College and Career Readiness Plan:
https://www.rrcs.org/Downloads/2023-2024%204%20year%20RRHS%20CCR%20Plan2.pdf
RRCS College and Career Readiness Plan:
https://www.rrcs.org/Downloads/2022-2023%20RRCS%20CCR2.pdf

Are you in the "Know"?
We encourage parents to learn about "Know!" by visiting https://www.drugfreeactionalliance.org/know or http://www.rrcs.org/Know.aspx. These bi-weekly articles are great ways for parents to stay informed about the struggles our students are facing.

Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets Framework
Search Institute has identified 40 positive supports and strengths that young people need to succeed. Half of the assets focus on the relationships and opportunities they need in their families, schools, and communities (external assets). The remaining assets focus on the social-emotional strengths, values, and commitments that are nurtured within young people (internal assets). You can learn more at: https://www.search-institute.org/our-research/development-assets/developmental-assets-framework/.

Career Shadowing
The Career Shadowing program at Rocky River High is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors who are interested in a specific career area and/or who would like to discuss and explore possible career options. Please visit http://www.rrcs.org/CareerShadowing.aspx or see Mrs. Bernadette Kronz in the Counseling Office for more information.

Safe School Helpline
Break the Silence – Prevent the Event
1-800-418-6423 ext. 359
www.safeschoolhelpline.com
Please call the Safe School Helpline if you know anything that threatens our school's safety. It's free and confidential 24 hours/7 days a week. Please report any facts, remarks or actions that could jeopardize the safety of our children, school or staff. Examples of harmful or threatening behavior might include: bullying, violence, theft, drug or alcohol abuse, talk of suicide, sexual harassment, weapons.

Resources for Students in Crisis
Please be aware of several crisis support services and helplines available on the RRHS Counselor page at: https://www.rrcs.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=633023I&dasi=3G0I or other mental health resources at: https://www.rrcs.org/mentalHealth1.aspx.

Civic-Mindedness
Any students who are 18, or nearing their 18th birthday, are reminded and recommended to register to vote. Voter registration cards are available in the Counseling Office. Voters must be registered in Cuyahoga County in order to vote in any election. In order to vote in Cuyahoga County, you must meet the following requirements:
You must be a United States Citizen;
You must be at least 18 years old on the day of the General Election;
You must be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days;
You must register to vote at least 30 days before an election to be eligible to vote.
17 year old residents can register and vote in a Primary Election if they will be 18 on or before the General Election. 17-year-olds can vote for candidates only.
Please find more information at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website:
https://boe.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/voter-registration.aspx.

Additionally, all 18 year old males must register with the Selective Service System through the U.S. Government. You can find details at: https://www.sss.gov/.

Parent and Community Involvement
Rocky River Alumni Association: https://www.rrcs.org/Alumni.aspx
Rocky River Student Activities Booster Information: https://www.rrcs.org/Boosters.aspx
Rocky River PTA: https://www.rrcs.org/RR_PTA.aspx
Rocky River Campus Foundation: https://www.rrcs.org/CampusProject.aspx
Rocky River Education Foundation: https://www.rredfoundation.org/

Rocky River Schools Information
RR Schools Newsletter: https://www.rrcs.org/RSchoolsNewsletter.aspx
RR Schools Podcast: https://www.rrcs.org/RrSchoolsPodcast.aspx
RR Schools Twitter Feed: https://www.rrcs.org/TwitterFeed.aspx

Events

MARCH
Mon 3/4 to Fri 3/8	RRCSD Say Something Week
Wednesday 3/6	SAT Digital Testing for Juniors
Thurs 3/14 – Fri 3/15	Junior English classes to Media Center for Junior Career Passport
Monday 3/18	Junior Career Passport Due
Friday 3/22	RRHS Local Scholarship Application sent to Seniors and parents
Wednesday 3/27	6-7:30pm WSCT Trades, Apprenticeship Fair at Westlake HS

APRIL
Wednesday 4/10	New Student Luncheon
Monday 4/15	RRHS Local Scholarship Application Due
Tuesday 4/16	OST: ELA 2 part 1
Wednesday 4/17	OST: ELA 2 part 2
Tuesday 4/23	OST: Alg 1 and Geo part 1
Wednesday 4/24	OST: Alg 1 and Geo part 2
Tuesday 4/30	OST: Biology

MAY
Wednesday 5/1	OST: US History and US Government
	RRCSD Mental Health Awareness Month
Mon 5/6 thru Fri 5/17	AP Testing
	Senior Exit Survey Due
Thursday 5/23	9-10:30a RRHS Spring Recognition Program

JUNE
Sunday 6/2	1pm RRHS Commencement
Thursday 6/6	Student Last day