

College Information

Junior Year





DECIDING ON A COLLEGE

- What do you want in a school?
 - Location, Type (ie. Liberal arts), Size, Competitiveness, Campus Life, Makeup of the student body
- Research Colleges of Interest
 - Internet, Course Catalogs, College Recruiters visiting RVGS, former RVGS students, college fairs
- Campus Visits

STANDARDIZED TESTS

- ❑ PSAT/NMSQT – this preliminary test gives students practice on the SAT reasoning test and gives Juniors the opportunity to qualify for National Merit Scholarships
- ❑ SAT Subject Tests
 - Achievement test – used to measure acquired knowledge in a particular area, as well as ability to apply that knowledge
 - Wide variety of individual subjects in five areas: History, English, Math, Science, & Languages
 - Score Scale: 200 – 800
 - Used mostly for placement purposes



STANDARDIZED TESTS

SAT

- Evidence based reading and writing
- Math
- Writing Optional
- No more penalty for guessing
- Score Scale: 200 – 800, 2 – 8 for essay
- Used for college admission

ACT

- ❑ Covers English, math, reading, science (writing is optional)
- ❑ ACT is closely tied to high school curricula
- ❑ Scored from 1 – 36
- ❑ Accepted at colleges/universities all over the country



STANDARDIZED TEST TIMELINE

□ Timeline

- Juniors should take the SAT/ACT in the winter or spring and again in the fall of their Senior year.
- October of the Senior year is the last testing date for early decision or early action
- November/December of the Senior year is the last testing date for regular decision

SAT/ACT REVIEW

- ☐ Identify weak areas from previous tests
- ☐ Take a preparatory class or get tutor
- ☐ Books/CD (Petersons, Barrons)
- ☐ Practice questions online
- ☐ Collegeboard.com
- ☐ Act.org

Earning College Credit in High School

☐ AP Tests

- Offered in May
- Students take AP tests for AP courses
 - ☐ Study guides & review sessions are helpful
- To earn College Credit need 3, 4, 5 (Check with each College to see what they accept)

☐ Dual Enrollment Courses

- Credit depends on:
 - ☐ Completion of course
 - ☐ College standards
 - ☐ *Check with specific Colleges to see how they accept AP and dual enrollment*



WHEN TO APPLY

- ☐ Early Decision
 - Deadline is usually Nov. 1, Notified Dec. 1 - 15
 - Binding decision if accepted
- ☐ Regular Decision
 - Deadlines usually begin around January 1, Notified April 1
- ☐ Early Action
 - Deadline is usually Nov. 1 or Nov. 15
 - Notified by Jan – February
 - Not binding
- ☐ Rolling Decision
 - Ongoing review of applications; short application turn around
 - Not Binding

APPLYING HOW MANY SCHOOLS?

☐ Early Decision

- 1 school
- Have other applications on hand if not accepted

☐ Regular Decision

- 1 “safety” school
- A couple of match schools
- 1 “reach” school

☐ Think of specific program to apply (e.g. engineering)



EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Performance in secondary school program
 - MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF APPLICATION
 - High grades in a rigorous curriculum
- SAT: Reasoning Test or ACT
 - Highest SAT or ACT taken
 - SAT: Subject Tests if required



EVALUATION CRITERIA

- ☐ Recommendations
- ☐ Extracurricular Activities
- ☐ Essays
- ☐ Interview (at some schools)



FINANCIAL AID

- ❑ Academic Merit Scholarships/Grants
- ❑ Need Based Programs
 - Grants
 - Loans
 - Work Study
- ❑ Entitlement and Outside Funding
 - TAG (tuition assistance grant), VGAP (Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program)

FINANCIAL AID

- ❑ FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - Department of Education determines how much a family can contribute to the cost of college (EFC-Expected Family Contribution)
 - Start filling out Oct. 1 of Senior year – check with the college for deadline
 - EVERYONE SHOULD FILL THIS OUT
 - ❑ For Federal Loans, Grants, Work Study, Unsubsidized Loans, Certain Scholarships



SCHOLARSHIPS

- ❑ High School Postings – home school and guidance page of RVGS website
- ❑ Internet (e.g. Fastweb)
- ❑ Colleges' institution specific merit scholarships



WHAT TO DO NOW

- ☐ Take standardized tests and make a timeline
- ☐ Take AP tests
- ☐ Research colleges
- ☐ Visit Colleges
- ☐ Get involved in the school/community
- ☐ Quality of involvement vs. Quantity
- ☐ Start a resume



QUESTIONS?

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE!