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1. We hope you have explored the contents of the folder we gave you at Junior night and the RCHS college counseling website for scholarship and financial aid information, testing information, and college website links.
2. Become familiar with the Naviance program. One of the student's favorite features of Naviance is the scattergrams. The scattergrams help you and your parents view your chances of admission to a college based on only two of the many factors that colleges use: your own RCHS SAT and GPA data. For privacy reasons if there have been fewer than five applications to a college, you will not be able to view RCHS data for that school. This data does not include other important information in addition to test scores and grades which colleges also consider in making their decisions such as **course difficulty, leadership, school and community involvement, diversity, level of motivation, letters of recommendation, and personal statement/essay.**
3. Schedule an appointment with your college counselor to give them an update. Come to the meeting prepared to discuss your
  - list of colleges you're considering
  - your updated resume *and*
  - any questions about the admissions, scholarships and financial aid process.
4. Remember how important junior year grades were? Now that you are applying to colleges the data that will appear on your transcript will be the year end grades for 9-11 and your course selections for senior year. Senior-year performance is critical as well since most colleges request mid-year grades and may rescind an offer of admission if your senior year grades decline.
5. Speak with the admissions representatives or visit the college website to determine admission requirements. For admission to highly competitive colleges, it is best to exceed their minimum requirements to make your application more competitive.
6. Beginning in September college representatives from over 60 colleges visit our school. Listen for the morning announcements, visit the website and Naviance, and check the 200 Hall College Counseling bulletin board for information about upcoming visits/events, workshops and other pertinent information. While attending the representative visits, please be courteous and polite and do not monopolize the session with questions pertaining to your particular situation. Remember you can always schedule a one-on-one visit or talk with the representative after the session. Also consider attending the college fair at the North Carolina State's McKimmon Center on Sunday, September 20 from 2:00 -4:30 PM and the Colleges that Change Lives fair on August 19 at 7:00 PM at the Durham Marriott Convention Center. Colleges already scheduled to visit are: Mount Holyoke, Skidmore, University of South Carolina, Furman, St. Johns, Washington University in St. Louis, High Point University and Swarthmore College.
7. Talk to your counselors! The better we know you, the better we can help you choose the best fit college for you from your list and the better our letter of recommendation will be which we write on your behalf.
8. At least three weeks before a recommendation is needed, ask the teachers you want to write for you. Provide a current resume of your honors, awards, and activities at the time you ask the teacher. If a teacher-recommendation form or counselor-recommendation form is part of the application, be sure you have completed your part, waived your right to see the recommendation, and make sure you have **signed** the form where indicated before giving to the teacher or your counselor.

9. At least three weeks before an application is due, complete an application request form, include any required materials, and give to your counselor. Indicate if you have applied on line and who you have asked for recommendations as well as the due date of the application. If you are applying to a state school, you must establish an account with CFNC ([www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)) and discuss with your counselor the possibility of transmitting your transcript on line. **WE WILL NO LONGER MAIL TRANSCRIPTS TO IN-STATE SCHOOLS! IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO REQUEST THE TRANSCRIPT BE SENT THROUGH YOUR COLLEGE FOUNDATION ACCOUNT.**
10. Pay attention to the morning announcements, the bulletin board in the 200 hall and the college counseling page of the website as well as the Naviance site for information about college visits, workshops and scholarship information. The scholarship bulletin is published monthly in the fall and is posted to the website. If you find a scholarship of interest, please talk with your counselor if you are considering completing an application.
11. Keep your counselor informed of your application status. If you hear from a college that you have been admitted, waitlisted, or denied admission, or that materials may be missing from the application, let your counselor know.
12. Visit college campuses. Fall Break and teacher workdays are good times to visit. Schedule official visits whenever possible, usually through the college admissions office or visitor's center. See the college counseling website "**college connections**" link for your copy of a Campus Visit Information Package.
13. Visit the college counseling resource room. We have college information (view books, catalogs and DVDs/videos), SAT/ACT test preparation tips and registration materials, scholarships and financial-aid resource books and college guidebooks to help you compile your list of colleges and find a good match. (Parents are needed periodically to organize these incoming resource materials. Please check with us if you can volunteer your time.)
14. Schedule your testing date and register online. College Counseling recommends that you take the SAT and/or the ACT at least twice: May or June of your junior year and again in October of your senior year. If you have not taken SAT II's and they are required for the college you are applying to, register now. College websites will provide their specific testing requirements. You may access college websites via links from Naviance or the college counseling websites.

You must create an account in order to register for these tests, receive/print your admission ticket to a testing site, take practice tests, get test study tips and view and send your scores to college(s) of your choice. **You are urged to send your scores to up to four colleges at the time you take the test. Sending scores to the first four colleges is free. If you send scores *after* testing, there is a \$10 fee per college. Colleges will receive your entire score history anyway and will search for your highest-ever ACT composite or SAT critical reading, math and writing scores from all tests taken.**

To register, you will need the RCHS School Code: **343230**.

<b>SAT-I and SAT-II Test Dates</b>	<b>Register By</b>
October 10	September 9
November 7	October 1
December 5	October 30

Register online at: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

<b>ACT Test Dates</b>	<b>Register By</b>
September 12	August 7
October 24	September 18
December 12	November 6

Register online: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

*Your counselors look forward to seeing you in college counseling soon.*