

Junior

College Planning Newsletter

2023 - 2024

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My Keys to College

Naviance:

A tool that helps students, parents, teachers, and counselors work together to assist students while they make plans for after high school. To access Naviance, you can choose the link on the high school webpage and use the account information students used when they created their accounts with their counselor.

Naviance tools available to you are:

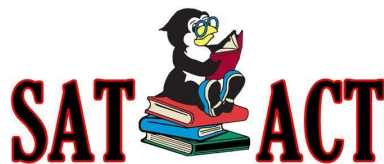
- ♦ College Search Tools.
- ♦ Interest and Personality inventories to help with your career planning.
- ♦ A list of Summer Programs that you may want to enroll in.
- ♦ Scholarship search.
- ♦ College tracking to help with your applications, transcripts, letters of recommendation & teacher evaluations.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- ♦ Spring & Summer are a good time to maintain your momentum from your junior year into senior year:
- ♦ Enrich yourself by volunteering, getting an interesting job or internship, or signing up for community college courses. (Take advantage of the free course through GCC-Promise Plus.)
- ♦ Visit colleges. Take campus tours and schedule interviews with admissions counselors at colleges you're serious about attending.
- ♦ Look at essay topics & scholarship criteria from colleges to which you'll apply. Check important dates - some universities have early deadlines.

Contact the Counseling Office:

Counselor	Last Names "A - K"	Zach Matzek	matzekz@dansvillecsd.org	335-4010 ext. 1007
Counselor	Last Names "L - Z"	Erik Kastner	kastnere@dansvillecsd.org	335-4010 ext. 1006
Secretary & Scholarships		Amy Oldfield	oldfielda@dansvillecsd.org	335-4010 ext. 1009



ACT & SAT Testing Dates & Deadlines

<u>Exam</u>	<u>Exam Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
ACT	Sep 09	Aug 04
ACT	Oct 28	Sep 22
ACT	Dec 09	Nov 03
ACT	Feb 10	Jan 05
ACT	Apr 13	Mar 08
ACT	Jun 08	May 03
SAT	Aug 26	Jul 28
SAT	Oct 07	Sep 08
SAT	Nov 04	Oct 06
SAT	Dec 02	Nov 03
SAT	Mar 09	Feb 23
SAT	May 04	Apr 19
SAT	Jun 01	May 17

ACT & SAT Registration Fees

ACT	\$60.00
ACT w/Writing Exam	\$85.00
ACT Late Registration Fee	\$36.00
ACT Fee Waiver (check with your Counselor)	
SAT	\$60.00
SAT Fee Waiver (check with your Counselor)	
SAT Late Registration Fee	\$30.00
SAT Subject Tests (No longer offered)	

The Counseling Office has a limited number of fee waivers for students whose families meet the income eligibility. Please see your Counselor if you think you may qualify.

Dansville School Code: 331575

Register On-line:

ACT - www.actstudent.org

SAT - www.collegeboard.org

SAT & ACT INFORMATION AND POLICIES

INFORMATION:

- ♦ The SAT and ACT generally cover the same topics with scores used for college admissions decisions and awarding merit-based scholarships. Most colleges do not prefer one test over the other and neither the SAT nor the ACT is harder than the other. Different students tend to do better on one test over the other.
- ♦ Many colleges are placing less emphasis on these standardized test scores in the admissions process and are instead focusing on other factors, like GPA and essays. Some colleges have even announced plans to go test-optional or test-blind. Be sure to check with any schools that you are planning to apply to for their SAT and ACT requirements.
- ♦ For U.S. students, the SAT will switch to a fully digital format beginning in 2024. This change will apply to every SAT exam date from January 2024 forward. When this change goes into effect, students will no longer be able to take a pencil and paper version of the exam.
- ♦ Use your PSAT results and personalized study plan, or find general preparation materials on the testing websites.
- ♦ Visit test preparations websites to help create a more personalized test plan. Some of these sites include; Khan Academy, PrepScholar, ePrep, and more.

POLICIES & PREPARATION:

- ♦ You must upload a photo when you register online. **(Please make sure your photo is only of you, front-facing, and clear. It should be passport quality since you will be denied admission to the test if the photo on your admission ticket does not clearly resemble you.)**
- ♦ Please see the testing website to make sure the ID you bring will be acceptable on test day. **(Even if you are testing at our school, you must bring acceptable ID or you will be denied admission.)**
- ♦ You can't make any mistakes on your registration! Every detail on the admission ticket, your ID, and the test roster has to match perfectly so make sure you take your time when registering.
- ♦ If you have created a College Board account, **DO NOT** create a second account ... The College Board will block registration abilities if you do.
- ♦ If you use testing modifications on school tests and want to use them on the SAT exam or ACT exam you'll need to see your Counselor **NOW!**



National College Fair

Rochester Riverside Convention Center

This FREE event allows students and parents to meet one-on-one with representatives from colleges and universities to discuss admission and financial aid opportunities at their respective institutions.



- ◆ This event is usually held in March - This year is TBD
- ◆ Usually you may attend the fair with your parent/guardian on a Sunday
- ◆ Usually the Counselors will take interested students to the College Fair on the following Monday

We hope you'll join us for this exciting way to kick off your college search process!

More information can be found at www.nacacnet.org under College Fairs.

Do you want to do something EXTRAORDINARY this summer?

There are several "Summer Camp" opportunities at colleges throughout the country. Please check emails from the Counseling Office and the Counseling "Class of" Google Classroom.

Genesee Promise Plus

Genesee, Livingston, Orleans or Wyoming County high school juniors, also known as "rising seniors," including homeschool students, who have finished their junior year of high school are eligible for a Genesee Promise Plus (GPP) Scholarship covering the cost of tuition for one course up to four credits.

GPP Scholarship funding is available for any course during the GCC Summer session. Placement testing may be required to qualify for courses with prerequisites.

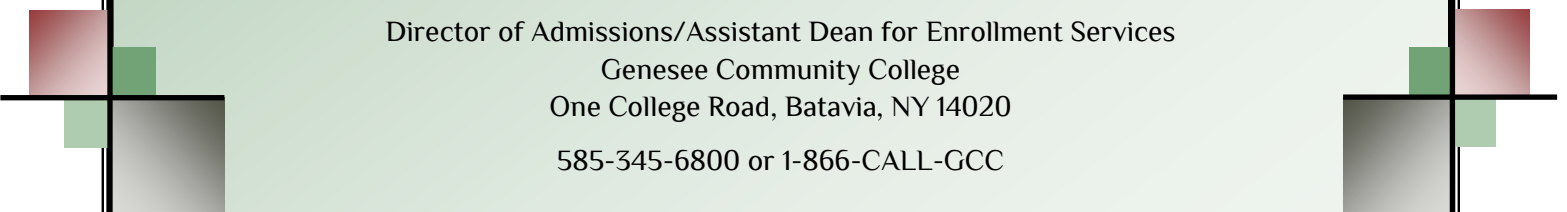
TO APPLY:

- ◆ Student must apply and register online, and complete and mail in the one-page GCC Promise Plus Scholarship Application.
- ◆ Student must complete the Residency Form.
- ◆ Parental approval/signature is required if under 18 years of age.

Application Deadline: TBD by GCC each Summer

For further information contact:

Director of Admissions/Assistant Dean for Enrollment Services
Genesee Community College
One College Road, Batavia, NY 14020
585-345-6800 or 1-866-CALL-GCC

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R.O.T.C. & Service Academies

Would you like to attend a four-year college free of charge or for only the cost of room and board?

Then read on because one of these options may be for you...



♦ **ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corp)** - If you're interested in attending a traditional four-year college and embarking on a commitment to serve as an officer in the Army, Navy, or Air Force, you're in luck! Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs can be found on over 1,700 college and university campuses in the United States. (The Coast Guard offers its own program, called the College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative, or CSPI). ROTC programs provide excellent training and, often, scholarships that help completely fund, or at least defray, the cost of college. In return, students must be willing to commit to years of military service. Students debating this route are encouraged to consider what this will mean for them in the long term. You can visit the ROTC website for the military branch that interests you and work on your application; this takes place concurrently with your applications to colleges. In fact, ROTC applicants need to provide many of the same items that are required for college applications: high school transcripts, recommendation letters, an account of extracurricular activities, and standardized test scores. Applicants will also need to interview and pass a physical fitness test and medical exam.

♦ **U.S. Armed Forces Service Academies** - Students who are looking to earn their bachelor's degree in an immersive, militaristic environment may benefit from attending a service academy or senior military college. At these schools, students have two main goals: earning a degree and preparing for a career in the military. Students who graduate from a service academy must accept a commission as an officer. Those who attend senior military colleges can choose whether to accept a commission. All students who commission as officers will owe a service commitment to their branch.

- * These academies provide an undergraduate education & training for commissioned officers of the U.S.. Armed Forces. They look for students with good grades, and participation in athletics is a big plus since you have to be physically fit to join the military.
- * There are five academies to consider attending: Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Academy, Naval Academy, West Point Military Academy, and Merchant Marine Academy.
- * Majors are available in many fields of study. Graduates of these institutions have a service obligation upon graduation and receive a commission as an ensign in the Navy or Coast Guard or second lieutenant in the Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps. Tuition, board and room, and medical and dental care are free of charge and students also receive a small monthly salary.
- * The service academies are very selective and have many admissions requirements. Interested students should apply during their junior year for consideration. The U. S. Department of Defense provides a website for specific admission requirements & deadlines.
- * If you are interested in an Academy, you begin the process by seeking nominations. Students interested in an Academy must do the following in their junior year:
 - * Seek nominations in writing from your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators before the end of your high school Junior year
 - * Take an ACT or SAT and have the results forwarded to them;
 - * Request a pre-candidate questionnaire from the individual Academies.

♦ **Reserves & National Guard Education Benefits** - Education benefits are available for Selected Reserve and National Guard members to help with education and training costs. Guard and Reserve members are eligible for several education benefits including the GI Bill, tuition assistance, state benefits and other programs.

- * The GI Bill for Reserve & Guard Members Reservists & Guard members are eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve, if:
 - You have a six-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve or Guard signed after June 30, 1985. Officers must have agreed to serve six years in addition to their original obligation.
 - Complete your initial active duty for training (IADT).
 - Meet the requirement to receive a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before completing IADT.
 - Remain in good standing while serving in an active Selected Reserve unit.

***TUITION ASSISTANCE:** Federal Tuition Assistance is a military benefit that pays the cost of tuition and some fees. Tuition assistance program guidelines, application procedures and the policies for determining eligibility vary between the services. Congress has given each service the ability to pay up to 100% for the tuition expenses of its members. In addition to tuition assistance you may be eligible for service specific education programs, scholarships, college funds, and other programs that can help you reach your education goals.

* **STATE BENEFITS:** Many states offer great benefits for members of their National Guard, and even for members of the reserves.

Scholarship Information for the Beginner

Scholarships are usually awarded based on at least one of the following criteria:

1. **Financial Need** - the amount of money you need based upon your parent's income.
2. **Academic Merit** - based on strength of academics, grades, and test scores.
3. **Special Talents & Conditions** - consider factors such as strength in athletics/music, parent's memberships in civic organizations, religion, and academic majors.

In our office you will find scholarship applications; stop in to check them out because it could mean extra dollars for you! There are also scholarship options through Naviance. The following websites are reputable and helpful on-line sources for scholarship information; www.fastweb.com, www.goingmerry.com, and bigfuture.collegeboard.org. Keep in mind that there are SEVERAL other websites with scholarship searches. You just have to do the research!

BEWARE ... Do not pay for scholarship searches! Keep a sharp lookout! Families in need of scholarship aid are a tempting target for scam artists. Red flags to watch out for include: pressure to commit right away, inappropriate questions about finances, and inappropriate openness about other client's personal business. As you research financial aid, it's important to stay away from companies that promise exclusive information or a scholarship search for a fee, offer awards you never applied for, or ask for a bank or credit card account number to "hold" a scholarship for you. The newest scam is the financial planning "seminar". Students receive a letter inviting them to a free seminar on financial aid. When they arrive, they're hit with a high-pressure sales pitch for costly services. Legitimate sources of aid information can be found on-line for free! The best rule of thumb is...if you're not sure, ask! The counseling office is always available for all of your questions!

TYPES of SCHOLARSHIPS

While you search for funding options, keep an open mind and remember that not all scholarships require top-notch performance in a given area; easy-to-qualify scholarships are out there, too. Many scholarships fall into one of the categories outlined below:

Academic: One of the most common categories of scholarships is those granted to students with strong academic records. These are usually awarded based on a student's grade point average (GPA), overall academic performance, and scores on standardized tests like the ACT and SAT.

Athletic: Student athletes who have performed well in their chosen sport may be eligible for scholarships. In some cases, athletic scholarships can fund a student's entire college career, covering tuition, room, and board for multiple years. Athletic scholarships are available for many sports, from popular ones like football and basketball, to lesser-known sports like lacrosse, archery, and rifle teams.

Demographic: Scholarships may be available for particular demographic groups, like those who are the first in their families to attend college. Other demographic groups can include, but are not limited to, scholarships for students who are Hispanic and Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, black, LGBTQ, women, and/or other minority groups.

Community Involvement: You can also qualify for scholarships because of your commitment to civic engagement or to a particular cause. Students with volunteer experience can be eligible for aid based on their involvement in their school and local community or their dedication to issues with global reach like diversity, inclusion, economic equality, or the environment.

Financial Need: Many scholarships are designed to support students who demonstrate financial need. These scholarships maintain a merit-based approach and are often awarded to students with promising academic abilities, or to students from backgrounds considered disadvantaged (e.g. students who grew up in the foster system or who have experienced homelessness).

Professional Interest: For students who apply to college knowing their particular academic field or career path, field and career-specific scholarships are available. Career-specific scholarships may be offered by companies in that field; for instance, scholarships for engineering students are sometimes offered by engineering firms.

Local Scholarships: Scholarship opportunities can often be found within your local community. Nonprofit organizations, churches, and civic groups sometimes offer scholarships to promising students from the area, particularly if a student has been involved with the group in some way.

Unique Scholarships: Some scholarships are offered based on a whole range of unique criteria. With a little effort, you can find options based on your interests and skills like drawing, collecting particular items, sewing, or playing video games. Some scholarships are even available based on students' diets and heights!



Grants, Loans, & Scholarship Information

Scholarships: Scholarships are funds awarded to students to cover education expenses, including tuition. Like grants, scholarship funds never need to be repaid; however, the full definition of a scholarship includes a couple of key features. For example, most scholarships are merit-based, meaning the recipient is chosen based on their academic abilities and skills. Scholarships are available in a wide range of areas--everything from academic or athletic performance to artistic ability, community service, and demographics like gender and ethnicity. Many types of organizations offer scholarships, too; for instance, along with colleges and universities, private businesses, community organizations, and individuals can sponsor scholarships. The funds awarded can range from under \$100 to tens of thousands of dollars, enough to cover a sizeable chunk of tuition, fees, and room and board.

Grants: Like scholarships, grants are funds that do not need to be repaid. Grants are typically offered by government entities, foundations, or businesses; they're usually awarded based on financial need. Federal Pell Grants are a well-known example of this type of funding source. Pell Grants are awarded based on the cost of the student's educational program and how much a student's family can contribute.

Loans: Loans are funds from government organizations and private entities like banks that must be repaid along with interest. To pay for a college education, both parents and students may take out loans. Money loaned typically must be repaid according to a set schedule, and the specific terms are established by the lender. To be eligible for a loan, a student's parents usually need good credit scores and reliable sources of income.

How to Find Scholarships

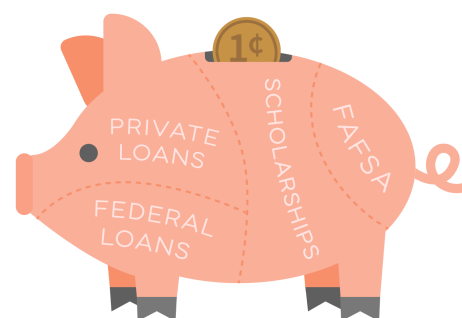
With so many options out there, you may wonder what the best way is to identify scholarships that are a good fit for you. For high school students, a visit with your guidance counselor is an effective way to start researching scholarships.

Once you've narrowed down your options for which college to attend, make sure you investigate any specific scholarships those schools offer. You will also want to think about any community connections that may help in your search. For example, does a family member's employer offer scholarships? Are there any community organizations that support students? One of the most important strategies for finding scholarship opportunities is to devote sufficient time to the process. Plan to search using a variety of resources and remember: it's never too early to begin looking for scholarships.

Preparing & Paying for College

Some helpful links:

- ◆ www.studentaid.ed.gov - The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is a comprehensive financial aid site that is maintained by the federal government for students and parents. It is the most vital step in applying for federal grants, work-study, and loans for college.
- ◆ www.hesc.com - the New York state site to help students plan for college and careers, get financial aid information, and learn about grants, scholarships and loans.
- ◆ www.finaid.org - offers information about many college financing opportunities.
- ◆ www.mappingyourfuture.org - Free resource for career, college, financial aid and money management information.



Dansville High School

COLLEGE PREPARATION OVERVIEW

JUNIOR YEAR

JULY

7/28: SAT Registration Deadline (8/26 Exam)

- ☐ Start researching colleges of interest
- ☐ Attend college summer programs
- ☐ Begin preparing for Standardized Tests (including PSAT, SAT, & ACT exams)
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

AUGUST

8/4: ACT Registration Deadline (9/9 Exam)

8/26: SAT Exam

- ☐ Research & develop a list of colleges that interest you - request info from those schools
- ☐ Begin researching possible majors/careers
- ☐ Begin researching how you can pay for college and/or how to get financial aid
- ☐ Schedule college visits/Meet with reps at DHS

SEPTEMBER

9/8: SAT Registration Deadline (10/7 Exam)

9/9: ACT Exam

9/22: ACT Registration Deadline (10/28 Exam)

- ☐ Join one or more new clubs at school (DHS)
- ☐ Locate community service projects and keep a record of the time you participated
- ☐ Create a document of awards, honors, etc.
- ☐ Start developing your resume
- ☐ _____

OCTOBER

10/6: SAT Registration Deadline (11/4 Exam)

10/7: SAT Exam

10/16: Rochester Area College Fair @ DHS

10/28: ACT Exam

TBD PSAT Exam @ Dansville High School

- ☐ Attend college Open Houses
- ☐ Start EARLY - Research scholarships & grants
- ☐ Create a CollegeBoard account - Use personal email ONLY (write down login info!!!!)
- ☐ Take the PSAT Exam

NOVEMBER

11/3: SAT Registration Deadline (12/2 Exam)

11/3: ACT Registration Deadline (12/9 Exam)

11/4: SAT Exam

- ☐ Begin researching financial aid options
- ☐ Attend financial aid seminars
- ☐ Complete the FAFSA4caster to estimate your eligibility for federal student aid
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

DECEMBER

12/2: SAT Exam

12/9: ACT Exam

- ☐ Meet with your Counselor regarding your post-graduate plans (college, military, career)
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

JANUARY

1/5: ACT Registration Deadline (2/10 Exam)

- ☐ Meet with Counselor to review PSAT scores
- ☐ If you wish to use test modifications on SAT or ACT exams, contact your Counselor to start the approval process
- ☐ Research possible job shadow opportunities
- ☐ _____

FEBRUARY

2/23: SAT Registration Deadline (3/9 Exam)

2/10: ACT Exam

- ☐ Research your top college choices to see if you need to take any SAT subject tests
- ☐ Register with NCAA if you plan to play Division I or Division II sports at college
- ☐ Check with colleges to see if they accept AP course/exam credits and/or GCC credits

MARCH

3/9: SAT Exam

3/8: ACT Registration Deadline (4/13 Exam)

TBD National College Fair in Rochester

- ☐ Meet with Counselor to plan Senior courses
- ☐ Attend National College Fair in Rochester
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

APRIL

4/19: SAT Registration Deadline (5/4 Exam)

4/13: ACT Exam

- ☐ Visit colleges that interest you
- ☐ Register for application sites (Common App, SUNY, SendEdu, etc)
- ☐ _____
- ☐ Research college summer opportunities
- ☐ _____

MAY

5/3: ACT Registration Deadline (6/8 Exam)

5/4: SAT Exam

5/6-10 AP Exams (Week 1)

5/13-17 AP Exams (Week 2)

5/17 SAT Registration Deadline (6/1 Exam)

- ☐ Begin creating a list of reference letter writers
- ☐ Narrow down college choices
- ☐ Consider lining up a summer job or internship
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

JUNE

6/1: SAT Exam

6/8: ACT Exam

6/16: ACT Registration Deadline (7/15 Exam)

- ☐ Register for GCC summer courses
- ☐ Start thinking about application essay topics and begin writing drafts
- ☐ Search for scholarships & grants
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

PASSWORD KEEPER

Your Keys to Success

connection.naviance.com

Career and College Search, Interest Inventory, Important Links, Common Application Processing

Account: Dansvilleshs

Username: _____ Password: _____

collegeboard.org

View PSAT Scores, study & register for SAT Exams, View AP Scores, search Colleges & Scholarships

Username: _____ Password: _____

actstudent.org

Register for ACT Exam, College and Career Planning

Username: _____ Password: _____

commonapp.org

One stop shop for applying to Colleges

Username: _____ Password: _____

suny.edu/student

Search for an apply to New York State Public Colleges

Username: _____ Password: _____

studentaid.gov

Must complete the FAFSA in order to receive any Federal College Financial Support

Username: _____ Password: _____

hesc.ny.gov

Must complete in order to receive any New York State College Financial Support

Username: _____ Password: _____