



# DCHS SENIOR NEWSLETTER



Can you believe you've made it to your senior year?!? I am sure this year seemed like it would never come, but now that it is here, it is going to fly by. As a senior, you will be very busy checking into college options, apprenticeship programs, the military, etc. You will have ACT/SAT testing, application deadlines, and so forth. This document will help you stay aware of all upcoming tasks that you may need to complete. If you ever have any questions regarding any of the information that is provided within the newsletter, feel free to stop by my office and we can discuss it. In conclusion, have a GREAT senior year and enjoy these last moments together in high school!!

## TESTING DATES & REGISTRATION

Students must register for the tests online. Visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) and click 'Register for the ACT'. For the SAT, go to [www.sat.org](http://www.sat.org) and click 'Register Now'. You will need a credit/debit card and to upload a photo. You can find free testing samples online through these sites. The Dade County Public Library also offers free SAT/ACT Prep material you can use. Below are test dates offered at DCHS. You can also test at other test centers besides DCHS if a different test date is more convenient for you.

### ACT - Center code is 233380

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DATE	REGISTRATION WITH LATE FEE
September 9, 2023	August 4, 2023	August 18, 2023
December 9, 2023	November 3, 2023	November 17, 2023
April 13, 2024	March 8, 2024	March 22, 2024

Cost for the ACT is \$68.00 without writing and \$93.00 with writing. An additional charge of \$36.00 will be added if you register late. To change an ACT date or location, you will be charged \$42.00. If you receive free or reduced lunch prices, see a counselor about a fee waiver form. Fee waivers can be used twice total and make the test free.

### SAT - Center code is 11689

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DATE	REGISTRATION WITH LATE FEE
November 4, 2023	October 5, 2023	October 24, 2023

Cost for the SAT is \$60 without writing. An additional charge of \$30.00 will be added if you register late. To change an SAT date or location, you will be charged \$25.00. If you receive free or reduced lunch prices, see a counselor about a fee waiver form. Fee waivers can be used twice total and make the test free.

## YOUR TO-DO LIST:

- **Create a resume. List your academic accomplishments, awards, extracurricular activities, work, community service, etc. Even if you are going directly to college and won't be working for awhile, it is good to get a resume together so that you will have the information saved and can add to it/adjust throughout life as you being working a job, etc.**
- **Sign up for the next ACT and/or SAT. Practice test items through the ACT and SAT websites, or order practice materials. It is a good idea to take both tests more than once as you try to get the highest scores you can for college admissions and scholarships. Many colleges will accept superscores, which is a combination of your highest scores in different subject areas from different test dates. It is to your advantage to take the tests more than once.**
- **GAfutures @ <https://www.gafutures.org> - Log in or create an account. This site gives you a lot of information on how to apply for college. We will talk about some of what is there today, but come by anytime you have future questions about it as well. An advantage to creating your own account is that you can sign in to check**

**your HOPE GPA, and you can send your official high school transcript to Georgia colleges that you apply to yourself rather than having to wait for DCHS to mail it and the college to receive it in the mail.**

- **Attend a College Tour - You receive 2 excused absences your senior year for college visits! You can book these appointments online on the college's website. In order for this to be excused, there is a form you will need to fill out in the front office and turn in.**
- **START APPLYING TO COLLEGES NOW!!! The quicker you get accepted to a college, the quicker you can start applying for their scholarships as well. We will have some college admissions counselors set up booths in the cafeteria from time to time during lunch. Stop and talk to them to find out more about their college. If you do not want to go to college, learn more about other routes of interest. Go ahead and talk to recruiters with the military if that is an interest, contact local apprenticeship programs for more information, contact the local Southeast Lineman's Training Center, etc. Make plans NOW for when you get out of school. Come by my office ANY TIME to discuss any of these options!! Also, you won't hear back from the college about whether you have gotten accepted if you don't send a high school transcript. Fill out a high school transcript request form in the front office and give it to Lindsay Walden and she will mail it. You can also sign into your GA Futures acct and send it electronically yourself if it is a Georgia college.**
- **Seek Scholarship Money!!**
  - 1) **All colleges and universities have a foundation. Apply for everything available to you. Look at these now, as some of the colleges academic scholarships are due in the fall of your senior year.**
  - 2) **FAFSA is the federal application that determines PELL Grant, the HOPE Scholarship/Grant, and more. It needs to be completed! There will be a FAFSA night later in the year in which parents can come fill out the FAFSA with assistance from the Georgia Student Finance Commission**
  - 3) **National Scholarships: Use a scholarship search engine to find various national scholarships. Once you register, they will email you info on scholarships too. Some examples include: fastweb.com, unigo.com, scholarships.com, scholarshipmonkey.com, cappex.com, goodcall.com, and chegg.com. There is also a scholarship app called "Scholly" that students can download and use to find scholarship matches.**
  - 4) **Local Scholarships - APPLY FOR ALL LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS once they become updated and posted on the DCHS Website. We will let you know once they are posted. You can access them by going to the Dade County High School webpage, clicking 'Student Services', and clicking 'Scholarship Information'. The local scholarships often are not posted until early 2nd semester and due at the beginning of May.**
- **Community Service Hours - Don't forget to document community service hours! If you accumulate a total of 100 hours by graduation, you will receive a special cord & certificate at graduation. It also looks really good for college applications and scholarships when you have been involved with community service in high school.**

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:**

- **Senior Parent/Student Informational Meeting: Aug. 28th at DCHS Auditorium from 6 to 7pm. Info on graduation, senior fees, college information, etc.**
- **Fieldtrip for 11th/12th graders to visit Dalton State Sept. 22nd for a campus tour - More info to come.**
- **College PROBE Fair at DCHS Friday, Oct. 6th. - From 9:30am to 11am on this day, there will be multiple colleges present for you to visit booths and ask questions to.**
- **The state of Georgia will launch a new state incentive in October called GEORGIA MATCH. GEORGIA MATCH will mail letters to current seniors that list college acceptance matches for public schools in Georgia based on the student's current high school GPA and/or ACT/SAT scores.**
- **Fieldtrip for 11th/12th graders to visit GNTC's Floyd County Campus - Thursday, October 19th. Come explore many career options available through GNTC.**
- **Senior Parent Meeting: Financial Aid for College. Oct. 23rd from 6-7pm in the DCHS auditorium. Ben Meadows from the Georgia Student Finance Commission will provide information for parents on the FAFSA, HOPE Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship, and other forms of financial aid. Parents are encouraged to attend.**

- **November is Apply to College Month in Georgia! During this month, many colleges in Georgia will waive their application fee for students who apply. All seniors will be given an appointment time on Nov. 7th or 8th. On their appt day, there will be school counselors and admissions counselors from local colleges who will be available to assist them in filling out college applications and will provide a list of colleges that are waiving their application fee at that time. Also, many colleges will waive the application fee if you qualify for free/reduced lunch. See a counselor if this is the case.**
- **ASVAB - This will be offered on November 28th for any 10th - 12th graders who sign-up to test. All seniors are encouraged to take this FREE career assessment given by our military. It is helpful in showing you where your strengths lie and in what careers you would be best suited. Listen for announcements about signing up.**
- **For student's that plan to apply to a college that is more difficult to get accepted into, an essay will usually be required to be written by the student. If students would like assistance in writing high-quality essays, Emily Wylie will come to the school and do a few workshop sessions for these students. A workbook would be used for each student, and these can be purchased for \$10. PLEASE SEE MRS. CLARK ASAP if interested.**
- **A fieldtrip for seniors to the Southeast Lineman's Training Center will occur in the spring. More info to come.**
- **FAFSA Assistance Night - Ben Meadows from the Georgia Student Finance Commission will come to the DCHS Media Center to help parents fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You definitely want to fill this out if you are going to college!!!! Parents can come with their tax returns & other needed documents and receive assistance with this process. More info to come.**

#### **PREVIEW DAYS AT LOCAL COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES**

1. Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College - Sep. 16, Nov. 4, Feb. 3, Apr. 6 - register online
2. Berry College – Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18 – register online
3. Covenant College - Sept. 21-22, Oct. 26-27 - register online
4. Georgia State - Sept. 15, Sep. 29, Oct. 13, Oct. 27, Nov. 10 - register online
5. Jacksonville State - Sep. 23, Oct. 10 - register online
6. Lee University - Fall: 10/6, 10/9, 11/3, 11/10 - Spring: 1/15, 2/16, 2/19 - register online
7. Shorter University - Sept. 16 - register online
8. Valdosta State - Nov. 11, Feb. 3, Apr. 6 - register online
9. Chattanooga State, Dalton State, GA Tech, GNTC, Kennesaw State, UGA, UTC, etc. have days throughout the year you can register online for and visit the campus

\*If you can't go to one of the preview dates listed above, you can still schedule an appointment online to visit the college in-person or virtually. Preview days are just helpful because they are planned ahead of time and will probably provide a lot of information to in-coming students.

#### **SCHOLARSHIP PRIORITY DEADLINES & PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINES**

**\*\*If your college of choice is not listed, please make sure to review their scholarship priority deadline. You do not want to miss any scholarship opportunities that you are eligible to receive.**

1. GA State Univ. – Honors Program and Presidential Scholarship Priority Deadline: Nov. 15
2. GA Southern – Priority Deadline for Scholarships: Feb. 1
3. GA College – Early Action Application Deadline & President’s Scholarship Deadline: Oct. 15
4. Shorter University – Scholars Program Scholarship Deadline: Jan. 20
5. UTC – Dec. 1- Priority Application Deadline; Apply to the college by Jan. 10 to be considered for scholarships
6. GA Tech – Early Action Deadline & Scholar’s Program Deadline: Oct. 16
7. Berry College – Nov. 1 - Early Action Deadline
8. GA Southwestern – Feb. 1 Freshmen Priority Scholarship deadline
9. Kennesaw State - Nov. 1 - Priority Application Deadline
10. UGA Early Action Deadline - Oct. 15

\*Priority Application Deadlines are not final deadlines for applying to that college. However, at some colleges you have a better chance of getting accepted if you apply early. At other colleges it doesn't increase your chance of acceptance, but it

allows you to find out if you were accepted sooner, which gives you more time to apply for academic scholarships to that college.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU TO KNOW:**

- **If you took Dual Enrollment classes in high school, after you apply to a college you will need to send a copy of your high school transcript ALONG with a copy of your college transcript to the college you plan to attend. For those of you taking courses from GNTC, you will log into 'MyGNTC' to electronically send your GNTC transcript to the college.**
- **When you took the ACT, SAT, or AP exams, they gave you an opportunity to choose colleges to send your scores to for free at that time. However, if you decide to go to a college that you did NOT previously send those scores to, you will need to sign into those accounts and pay to send your scores to the college.**
- **Still unsure what job you are interested in? Log into your Infinite Campus account and complete the YouScience career interest/aptitude inventory to find good job matches for you. If you already completed it last year, it should still have your results saved for you to look at. See the counselors for help on how to get to this if you've forgotten.**
- **GEORGIA'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS: QUICK SUMMARY**
  - \*HOPE SCHOLARSHIP: GA RESIDENT ATTENDING GA COLLEGE, ENROLLED IN A DEGREE PROGRAM, 3.0 HOPE GPA, TOOK 4 RIGOR COURSES IN HIGH SCHOOL: (PAYS 100% OF TUITION THIS SCHOOL YEAR! HOWEVER, THIS COULD POSSIBLY FLUCTUATE IN THE FUTURE)**
  - \*ZELL MILLER SCHOLARSHIP: GA RESIDENT ATTENDING GA COLLEGE, ENROLLED IN A DEGREE PROGRAM, TOOK 4 RIGOR COURSES IN HIGH SCHOOL, 3.7 HOPE GPA, SCORED A 26 ON THE ACT OR 1200 ON THE SAT (PAYS 100% OF TUITION AT A PUBLIC COLLEGE)**
  - \*HOPE GRANT: GA RESIDENT ATTENDING GA COLLEGE, ENROLLED IN DIPLOMA OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM, MUST MAINTAIN A 2.0 COLLEGE GPA (PAYS 100% OF TUITION THIS SCHOOL YEAR! HOWEVER THIS COULD POSSIBLY FLUCTUATE IN THE FUTURE)**
  - \*ZELL MILLER GRANT: GA RESIDENT ATTENDING GA COLLEGE, ENROLLED IN DIPLOMA OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM, MUST MAINTAIN A 3.5 COLLEGE GPA (PAYS 100% OF TUITION AT A PUBLIC COLLEGE)**
  - \*HOPE CAREER GRANT: MUST MEET QUALIFICATIONS FOR HOPE OR ZELL MILLER GRANT, BUT BE ENROLLED IN AN APPROVED PROGRAM OF STUDY THAT THERE IS A DEMAND FOR IN GEORGIA. THE LIST OF APPROVED PROGRAMS IS FOUND ON THE GA FUTURES WEBSITE. (PAYS 100% OF TUITION)**
  - \*PELL GRANT: ADDITIONAL FEDERAL MONEY THAT CAN BE USED IN ANY STATE IN GEORGIA BASED ON ONE'S INCOME AFTER COMPLETING THE FAFSA. CAN BE UP TO A MAX OF \$7,395.**
- **COMPLETING THE FAFSA CAN QUALIFY YOU FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS, AS WELL AS FOR STUDENT LOANS THROUGH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. ALSO, COLLEGE AND LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS OFTEN ASK FOR ONE'S EXPECTED FAMILY INCOME, A NUMBER THAT IS GIVEN TO YOU AFTER COMPLETING THE FAFSA. IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA, BUT STILL WANT TO RECEIVE HOPE OR ZELL MILLER SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS, THEN YOU WILL NEED TO FILL OUT THE GEORGIA STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATION. IT CAN BE FOUND AT [WWW.GAFUTURES.ORG](http://WWW.GAFUTURES.ORG).**

**Please reach out if you have any questions!!! Amanda Clark /[amandaclark@dadecs.org](mailto:amandaclark@dadecs.org) /706.657.7517 x6**