RHS Counseling Department

Junior Year Priorities: What to Focus on in 11th Grade

Throughout the Year

- **Focus on your schoolwork – junior year is important!**
  Prioritize your academics, but also your mental well-being. Recognize when you're stressed and get help with ways to unwind and rest.
  - Adjust your habits and routine for the increased demands of junior year classes.
  - Remain involved in clubs, activities, or sports you enjoy.
- **Continue your college research and planning** using Xello and College Board.
- **Sign up for tours of college campuses** that you are considering attending.
- **Make an appointment to see your counselor** any time at bit.ly/rhscounselingappt.

In the Fall

- **Work on your EDP: Educational Development Plan.**
  Continue to work with your counselor to update your EDP using the career exploration program, Xello. Xello assists with narrowing down potential careers and which classes would help you to enter that field.
- **Attend the RCS College Fair** held in October. Check the counseling web site for details.
- **Sign up to attend college representative visits** for colleges you may be considering.
- **Look into programs offered at the Oakland Schools Technical Campus.**
  - Each year, representatives from OSTC visit RHS to discuss the different programs offered for any junior interested in attending during their senior year.
  - Field trips to OSTC are also available. Check in your Counseling Google Classroom for details.
- **Register to take the AP test** for any AP courses you're currently enrolled in.
  Your AP teacher can help you register with College Board, paying for the test, and informing the counseling office of the test(s) you will be taking.

In the Winter

- **Start planning for Senior year.**
  - Apply to the Oakland Schools Technical Campus in Dec/Jan if you are interested in one of their programs.
  - Consider applying for Credit by Exam: Testing out of a one-semester class to make room in your schedule next year for taking a different class. When testing out of a class, studying and preparing for the test is on your own. Applications are available in November from the counseling office and are due in December, with testing taking place in January. January test-out dates apply only to testing out of one-semester classes.
  - Consider taking a RCS Summer Learning class to obtain any credits you're still needing or to open up space in your schedule for other classes. Registration opens in the spring.
- **Schedule your senior year classes.**
  In January/February, your counselor will discuss scheduling for the next year. Consider your career goals and taking courses that challenge you with learning new knowledge.
  Log in to Xello to look at educational goals for fields you are interested in to help guide your course selection.

In the Spring

- **Plan ahead for your senior year classes.**
  - Apply for Credit by Exam: testing out of a required year-long class, which can make room in your next year's schedule. Applications are available in mid-March, due to counseling in April, and is testing held in May.
- **Take the 3 tests** included as part of the Michigan Merit Examination: the SAT, WorkKeys, and M-STEP tests.
- **Take any AP tests in May** that you registered for back in the fall.
- **Register for RCS Summer Learning** to take a class during the summer if that's part of your plan.
- **Maintain good study habits and finish the year strong.**
  Junior year can be a busy year! Keep your focus on doing well in your classes and giving your best effort.

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In the Summer

- **Develop your post-high school plans.** Continue researching potential careers and working on your EDP through Xello.
- **Take a tour of a local college** to familiarize yourself with the feel of college life.
- **Start to create a resume.**
- **Start working on college applications.**
  You won't submit any until August after you've met with your counselor, but starting now will save you time completing them next fall.
- **Attend any Summer Learning classes** you've registered for.
- **Participate** in something that you enjoy!

Junior Year Standardized Tests

- **PSAT/NMSQT** (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test): taken in October
  In addition to taking this pre-SAT test, this test can qualify students for the National Merit Scholarship.

- **MME: Michigan Merit Exam**: taken in April
  Completing the Michigan Merit Examination Assessments are state-mandated graduation requirements for all 11th grade students.
  The MME consists of three tests: SAT, WorkKeys, and M-STEP.
  1. SAT tests students on math and reading/writing skills.
     - All Juniors will take the SAT during the school day. No registration with College Board is required.
     - Students may choose to take the SAT additional times by purchasing and registering for one with College Board. Students on free/reduced lunch may qualify for an SAT fee waiver and can check with their counselor.
  2. WorkKeys is a job skills test with questions on applied math, graphic literacy, and workplace documents.
  3. M-STEP tests knowledge of science and social studies topics.

- **AP Tests**: taken in May
  - Registration takes place in the fall and AP testing occurs during the first two weeks in May.
  - Students are given a join code by their AP course teacher to register with College Board.
    - Payment is required to RCS for each test taken. Provide proof of payment to the counseling office. Students on free/reduced lunch may qualify for a reduced rate and can inquire in the counseling office.