SENIORS

Class of 2027

CHEROKEE HIGH SCHOOL

Administrators & Counselors

Last Name	Admin	Counselor
A-Ch	Ms. Jamie Vogan	Ms. Michelle Collins
Ci-Garc	Ms. Connie Ard	Mr. Chris St. Vrain
Gard-Joh	Dr. Beth Watkins	Ms. Sonia Murillo
Joi-Mel	Mr. Jonathan Hightower	Ms. Hillary Nichols
Mem-Pri	Mr. Casey Belli	Ms.Gayle Cuomo
Prj-Sn	Dr. Christian Kirby	Ms. Amanda von Schilling
So-Z	Mr. Jeremy Adams	Ms. Karen Holton

Principal- Mr. Andy Hall

CHS Student Services Website

Senior Checklist

August + September

· Review your graduation status with your counselor.
· Register to take the Accuplacer test if you are planning to attend a technical or two-year college.
· If you plan to attend a college or university, check to see if your college requires testing, and if so, register for the SAT or ACT. Registration for these tests must be completed online.
o ACT registration: www.act.org
o SAT registration: www.sat.org/register
· ACT and SAT fee waivers are available for students who qualify.
· Develop a resume, work on essays if needed, and request recommendations from teachers and counselors. Please give to your recommender 2-3 weeks before deadline.
· **Check that CHS has your CORRECT Social Security Number in our system. Having the wrong number in the system will delay or negate your HOPE eligibility.**

October

- Complete online applications for Early Decision/Action and request transcripts through Parchment or GA Futures.

  www.parchment.com or www.gafutures.org

- Send ACT and or SAT scores to the colleges/universities of your choice.
- Attend college Open Houses
- See individual college websites, as well as www.gafutures.org, for current admissions requirements for all Georgia schools, and to begin the application process for schools you are interested in. It is a good idea to apply to three to five different schools. Each application will have a fee. Students who are eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch may be eligible for reduced application fees.
- Begin gathering information you may need and filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). FAFSA information is available on their website; www.fafsa.ed.gov. You need to complete the FAFSA for loans OR if you are HOPE elligible.
- Read the scholarship posts on the CHS Website. Search for scholarships on the web, on the college website, and in your community. Check schools that you are applying to for scholarships specific to those schools.

November + December

- Males must register for the Selective Service when they turn 18 at www.sss.gov
- Keep your grades up! Senior grades DO count!
- If you applied for early decision/action, you may receive notification of admission as early as December.

January + February

- Complete the FAFSA or the HOPE Alternative form on GaFutures if you did not do so in the fall.
- Check to see if your school requires the CSS Profile, this is typically needed for private colleges/universities. All FAFSA related information can be accessed on the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov

March

- Continue to search for and complete scholarship applications.
- Keep those grades up!!!

April + May

- Expect to receive regular admissions decisions and financial aid packages from many schools at the end of March beginning of April.
- Most schools require a deposit and a letter of intent by May 1st. Compare schools and choose the best fit for you.
- Request a final copy of your high school transcript be sent to your college in June using www.parchment.com or www.Gafutures.org

**Grades from Edgenuity, GAVS, and Mountain Ed must be in by May 9th in order to walk in the Graduation ceremony.*

College Admissions Exams

- Four-year colleges may require students take one of the two primary admissions tests: the ACT or the SAT. Colleges in Georgia which require them do accept either. Students who are eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch may be eligible for reduced application fees for these exams.
- If you plan to attend a technical college or a two-year college, you may need to take the ACCUPLACER test instead of the SAT or ACT. Contact your technical school or two-year college for testing days.
- Be sure to register (at web sites below) before the registration deadline to avoid having to pay an additional fee. You may select colleges to send your scores to, at no charge, when you take the test. Scores may also be sent after you receive them, for a fee.
- Check out www.satpractice.org for all of the SAT information you could ever want! You can access great videos and charts that will help you to decide which test is best for you. This is also a great website to utilize for SAT and ACT practice. You can also use https://academy.act.org/ for free ACT prep.
- There are lots of free resources online for SAT and ACT preparation. Use the links above as well as search for more yourself. Preparation is key to success.
- Test dates & sites can be found at www.sat.org & www.act.org
- Cherokee High School will only be offering weekday/in school tests.

College Application Info

What do colleges look at when considering your application?

·High school academic record (courses taken, grades, and rank in class). Grades that represent a strong effort and an upward trend. Slightly lower grades in a rigorous program are preferred to all A's in less challenging courses.
·ACT or SAT that are consistent with high school grades.High test scores do not compensate for low grades.
·A well-written essay that provides insight into your personality, values, and goals.
·Letters of recommendation from teachers and your counselor.
·Special talents or experiences (art, music, drama, athletics, leadership) that will contribute to the student body.
·Service to school and community.
·Demonstrated enthusiasm for attending the university. This is shown with every campus visit and interview (if required), and ongoing contact with the admission office.

Points to Consider...

·The admissions requirements of colleges in Georgia have consistently risen every year and it is anticipated that they will continue to do so. See college web sites and www.gafutures.org for current admissions information for all Georgia schools.
·Most colleges only consider academic courses when calculating grade point averages, thus excluding grades from physical education, the fine arts, and other elective classes. In most cases, the recalculated GPA will be lower than the one stated on your transcript.

Preliminary School List

It is a great idea to form a list of possible school choices. Think in terms of three categories: Reach schools, Range schools, and Safety schools.

- A "Reach" school might be one that is a dream school, but to which your GPA and test score is currently below the average GPA of their incoming freshmen.
- A "Range" school is one to which your GPA and test score are in line with the school's requirements.
- A "Safety" school would be a school where you should definitely expect to be accepted, as your GPA and test score are above the school's admission requirements.

HOPE & ZELL

· The HOPE Scholarship program (https://gsfc.georgia.gov/hope) is for students who plan to attend a two or four-year college to work on an Associate's or a Bachelor's degree. The HOPE Scholarship pays partial tuition at public colleges in Georgia. Students who attend a private college in Georgia who qualify for HOPE receive a monetary stipend towards their tuition.

·The HOPE Scholarship will pay current year at 100% of the prior year tuition amount.
Example: the 2027 year of college gets covered at 2026 tuition rate under HOPE, etc. If the rates are the same from one year to the next, HOPE funds at 100%; if the rates change from year to year, then HOPE only covers the amount equal to the prior year. You will be responsible for the remainder.

·The HOPE Scholarship requires a 3.0 gpa for college preparatory students. Students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative postsecondary gpa to remain eligible. This gpa includes all academic classes and no electives such as PE, Fine Arts, &/or Technical classes. Middle school courses and grades are NOT included in the HOPE calculation. Student also need to have 4 credits of rigor. See www.gafutures.org for more information on rigor courses.

·All weighted grades at the high school will have the weights removed by the GSFC. The GSFC will then add a 0.5 quality weight for AP classes up to a 4.0. No weight given for Honors classes. You can check your HOPE GPA at www.gafutures.org

HOPE & ZELL

·The Zell Miller Scholarship is a merit-based award available to Georgia residents, similar to the HOPE Scholarship, but with more stringent academic requirements and a higher level of tuition assistance. A Zell Miller Scholarship recipient must graduate from high school with a minimum 3.7 grade point average combined with a minimum SAT score of 1200 on the math and reading portions or a minimum composite ACT score of 26 in single national test administration and maintain a minimum 3.3 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible. 4 credits of rigor courses required.

·The high school will send your transcript to the Georgia Student Finance Commission for the HOPE calculation. The student must either complete the FAFSA or the HOPE application online at www.gafutures.org

·The HOPE Grant is for students who attend a Georgia public technical college to pursue a certificate or diploma. The HOPE Grant does not require a specific grade point average.

·Zell Miller Grant is a merit-based program available to Georgia residents pursuing a certificate or diploma. A Zell Miller Grant recipient must maintain a minimum 3.5 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible. Eligible students are provided full-standard tuition assistance while enrolled at a Zell Miller Grant eligible college or university in Georgia.

Scholarship Search Tips & Strategies

1. Build Volume

- Applying to many scholarships significantly boosts your chances of securing awards—hundreds of submissions will increase your chances of earning money for college.
- Start early: Begin searching and applying as early as 9th or 10th grade to stay ahead of deadlines and competition.

2. Use Reputable Platforms

- Sign up for free, trusted scholarship search services like Scholly and Fastweb. Be wary of any service requiring a fee.
- JLV College Counseling regularly publishes scholarship roundups with upcoming deadlines, such as the "Scholarship Saturday" posts. https://jlvcollegecounseling.com/scholarships/

3. Focus on Local Scholarships

- Local awards, especially at the high school or district-level (CHS or CCSD), often target fewer applicants. These are frequently posted in the Spring and are specifically for seniors. Information will be listed on the CHS website under “Student Services.”

4. Check College-Specific Scholarships

- Colleges often have scholarships with deadlines earlier than admissions. It is critical to review each college’s website and scholarship portal.

5. Employer-Initiated Scholarships

- Check with your (or your parents) employer’s HR or benefits department—they may offer scholarships or tuition assistance programs.

6. Stay Alert to Scholarships via Social Media & Google

- Follow scholarship lists, counseling pages, and organizations across platforms like Instagram and TikTok for real-time updates. Follow other high schools’ sites.
- Google/AI targeted searches for specific careers, hobbies, and other personal attributes.

Scholarships

- There are many ways to explore scholarship offerings. Scholarships sent directly to the CHS counseling office are posted on the CHS website.
- NOTE: Although some web sites may offer products or services for sale, everyone offers free information that is helpful in planning for your future. We caution you against purchasing anything from these web sites. The NCAA Clearinghouse registration fee and Parchment fee are exceptions.

www.finaid.org - Scholarship search and financial aid information.

Scholarships.com

FastWeb Scholarships

Niche: Compare Colleges

FAFSA

CHS School Counselors post scholarships too!

CHS Student Services

Transcripts

- www.parchment.com – This is one way to send your transcript to colleges and the NCAA. There is a fee to have your official transcript sent. You must click “Update” to request to see the most up-to-date transcript. It takes 24 hours to see the updated transcript.
- www.gafutures.org - A website from the Georgia Student Finance Commission. This site contains career, college, testing, and financial aid information for students and parents. Online college and financial aid applications are included. You can also see your HOPE GPA and send your transcript to colleges and the NCAA.
- www.ncaaclearinghouse.net &/or www.naia.org - All student athletes who plan to participate in collegiate athletics must register at this site. There is a fee for this service. You can send your own transcript to the NCAA through Parchment or GaFutures. If you want to send your transcript to the NAIA, you will need to send an email requesting it be sent to karen.holton@cherokeek12.net

CHEROKEE HIGH SCHOOL

Graduation Requirements

4 Credits

English

- 9th Grade Lit/Lit & Comp I
- 10th Grade Lit/Lit & Comp II
- American Lit/AP Lang
- Adv Composition/AP Lit

4 Credits

Math

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Adv Algebra
- 4th Math

4 Credits

Science

- Biology
- Physical Science/Physics
- Chem/Earth/Environmental
- 4th Science

3 Credits

Social Studies

- World History
- US History
- Economics (.5)
- American Govt (.5)

1 Credit

REQUIRED Electives

- Health (.5)
- Personal Fitness (.5)

or 3 Credits of JROTC

3 Credits

REQUIRED Electives

- Career/Tech Education
- Fine Arts
- JROTC
- Modern Language

4 Credits

Unique Electives

Create my GAFutures Account

CHS Student Services

Total Credits Needed to Graduate

23 Credits