

2026 Parent Curriculum Night

SENIOR INFORMATION
SESSION 1 ONLY: 6:05-6:45



Senior Information



TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- College Applications
- Transcripts
- FAFSA
- Recommendation Letters
- Scholarships
- Important Dates and Graduation

ADMINISTRATOR & COUNSELOR DIRECTORY

Student Last Name	Administrator	Guidance Counselor
A-E	Pamela Costa	Cat Gay
F-Le	Brandon Boehman	Briawanna Brown
Li-Rey	Justin West	Kati Kong
Rez-Z	Stephanie Barber	Seana Ficklin

Transcripts



- If you need a transcript sent to a Georgia college, you can request to have it sent electronically at **no charge** through GAFutures.org
- For out of state colleges you may request electronic copies to send through Parchment. Parchment does charge a fee. Parchment.com
- If you would like River Ridge to mail an official copy to a college, the cost is \$5.00 and will take 24 – 48 hours to complete. Please fill out a request form for Mrs. Pellegrino in the Counseling Center.

College Applications



- **College Applications are open.**
- Each college has specific admission requirements and application deadlines. Please refer to the college websites for criteria and deadline information.
- **Early Action** - A type of application deadline that tends to be in November and December but can be as early as October 15th. Students who apply via early action hear back from schools sooner.
- **Regular Decision** - This application deadline is typically early 2nd semester. Students who apply regular decision usually hear back in late March or early April.
- **Rolling Admissions** - Schools with rolling admissions evaluate applications as they receive them and release admission decisions on an ongoing basis.

FAFSA



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- Students are able to submit the FAFSA starting October 1st of their senior year
- Required for all scholarships and financial aid
- Make sure you are on the .ed or .gov website, not .com!

[FAFSA Website](#)

[GA Futures Website](#)

FAFSA Night



October 22nd at 6:00

RRHS Auditorium

Presentation by Georgia Student
Finance Commission

Information about
FAFSA, HOPE, HOPE Grant,
Zell Scholarships and other
financial opportunities.

Scholarships



Types of Aid Loans – Need to be repaid after college- generally in your name

- Federal Direct Loans – repayment generally begins when you leave school; subsidized and unsubsidized
- Private Loans – generally carry a high interest rate, cost you more

Scholarships & Grants – Do not have to be repaid

- Grants – need-based
- Scholarships – merit-based (Check the college's website for scholarships-apply early)
- HOPE & Zell Miller Scholarships & Grants
- Local Scholarships posted to RRHS Counselor Canvas Page

Work-Study Programs -Student will have a job on campus.

RRHS will host a Financial Aid Night on October 22nd at 6:00.

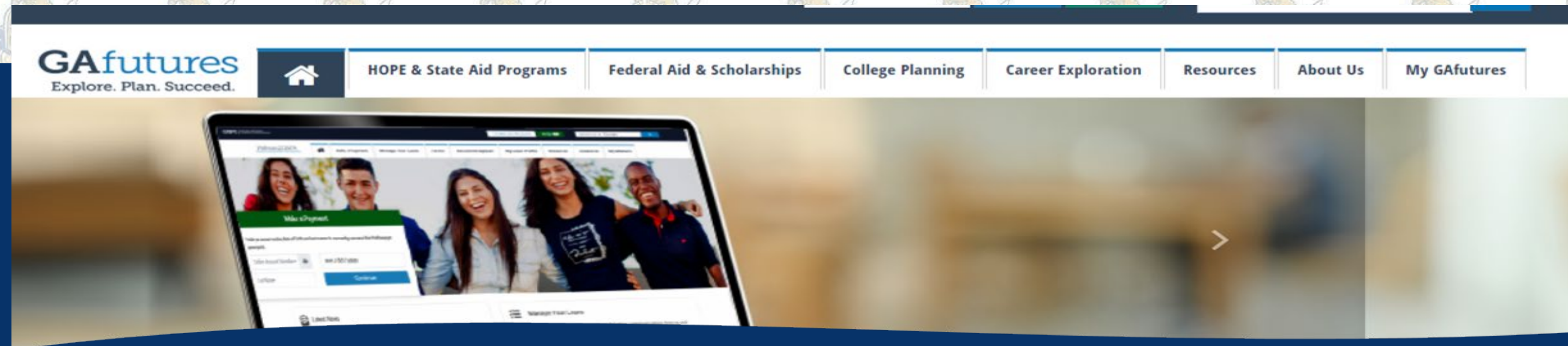
River Ridge Counselor Canvas Page



Weekly Announcements

- *Scholarships*
- *Leadership Opportunities*
- *ACT/SAT Information Sessions*
- *College Visits*
- *Mentor Programs*
- *Internships*

WWW.GAFUTURES.ORG



- Scholarship Search Engine
- College Searches
- Complete College Applications
- Financial Aid Information
- Career Search
- Senior Timeline
- And more!!!

College and Technical School Fairs



River Ridge High School College Fair

- October 1st -River Ridge's Media Center
- During all lunch periods

Agnes Scott Air Force Army National Guard Chattahoochee Technical Dalton State Georgia Gwinnett

Georgia College & State University Georgia Highlands Georgia Southern Georgia Southwestern State

Georgia State Kennesaw State LaGrange College Marienes Oglethorpe Piedmont Reinhardt Shorter

Universal Technical Institute University of North Georgia Valdosta State

Georgia Match



- ❖ GEORGIA MATCH letters will be mailed to current Seniors in October 2026.
- ❖ The colleges listed on your GEORGIA MATCH letter and your GAFutures student Dashboard are an academic match based on your HOPE GPA and they are holding a spot for you in the Fall 2026 class!
- ❖ [GEORGIA MATCH | Georgia Student Finance Commission](#)
- ❖ [University System of Georgia](#)

TEST OPTIONAL



- ❖ The University System of Georgia (USG) will continue the current temporary waiver of SAT/ACT score requirements . The temporary test score waiver does not apply to the following:
 - ❖ Georgia College & State University
 - ❖ Georgia Institute of Technology
 - ❖ University of Georgia
 - ❖ Augusta University
- ❖ Georgia Southern University (Statesboro and Armstrong Campuses only)
 - ❖ Georgia State University (Atlanta Campus only)
 - ❖ Kennesaw State University
- If the student has a lower GPA than what the college requires, they will need a good SAT/ACT score!

School Day PSAT and SAT at RRHS



9 th PSAT Date: 10-28-26	10 th PSAT/NMSQT DATE: 10-28-26	11 th PSAT/NMSQT Date:10-28-26	11 th and 12 th SAT Date:10-28-26
\$14 test fee See RRHS website for the link to register.	No cost Funded by the state of GA All 10th grade are automatically registered.	\$18 test fee See RRHS website for the link to register. 11 th grade students who wish to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship can register to participate.	\$60 test fee See RRHS website for the link to register. *For any 11th grade student not participating in the PSAT/NMSQT
<i>Scores on PSAT/NMSQT are used by teachers for admittance into RRHS AP courses by identifying AP Potential and potential identification for college scholarships for 10th grade.</i>			

**Deadline to register:
September 18, 2026**

Wednesday, October 28, 2026, will be a remote learning day for any students not testing (students do not report to campus).

Important Dates and Graduation



- Senior Class Meeting – Wednesday, September 10th – ATLGrad – Cap and Gown
- Financial Aid Meeting – Thursday, October 22nd @ 6:00p.m. Hosted by GSFC
- Prom-The Biltmore Ballrooms – Friday, April 16th, 2027
- Graduation Date – May 26th, 27th, or 28th - 2027

Additional Documents



Senior Brag Sheet

- Letter of Recommendation

College Visit Form

- Two per semester

Questions?



Please reach out to your child's administrator or guidance counselor.

Student Last Name	Administrator	Guidance Counselor
A - E	Pam Costa pamela.costa@cherokee12.net	Cat Gay Cathleen.gay@cherokee12.net
F - Le	Brandon Boehman Brandon.Boehman@cherokee12.net	Briawanna Brown briawanna.brown@cherokee12.net
Li-Rey	Justin West justin.west@cherokee12.net	Kati Kong kati.kong@cherokee12.net
Rez-Z	Stephanie Barber stephanie.barber@cherokee12.net	Seana Ficklin seana.ficklin@cherokee12.net