

RICHARDSON HIGH SCHOOL

Volume 1, Issue 3

Spring 2009

JUNIOR JOURNAL

Important Info:

Junior year is quickly coming to an end. It is extremely important that you concentrate on your grades and keep up with your activities. If you have time, remember that volunteering is always a plus. Most colleges would like to see students who have volunteered throughout their high school career. The spring semester of your junior year is very important as colleges will only see your semester averages from the 9th—11th grades when you apply next fall.

Grade and Absence Reminders

Please watch your attendance as we approach the end of the semester. State law allows only 9 absences before a loss of credit is given. Students who lose credit in a class must verify absences over 9 with their teacher and make a plan to recapture that credit (ex: Saturday School). Ask your teachers if you need to attend.

As semester exams approach remember to STUDY!! Colleges will be able to see your semester average on your transcript so be sure to make a conscious effort to earn the best grades you possibly can.

Letters of Recommendation for Admission to State-Supported Colleges and Universities

As juniors, the following information is not yet applicable, but it is necessary that we begin to prepare you for the college admission process.

State-supported colleges, universities, and some private schools **do not require** letters of recommendation from teachers and/or counselors. Admissions officers from these schools have told counselors that such letters usually do not make a difference in the admission status of students. Unsolicited letters may actually detract from the application.

Recommendation letters **might** be appropriate in these situations:

- * Counselor letters when there is an unusual situation that needs to be explained (ex: a significant drop in grades due to a personal or family illness).
- * Teacher letters if the teacher can attest to superior effort in class.
- * Coach and/or club sponsor letters if the student has exhibited outstanding leadership.

AP EXAMS

AP Exams will be administered between Monday, May 4th and Friday, May 15th 2009, in two, three-hour daily sessions—one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Check with your AP teacher for more information regarding the dates and times for each individual test.

Do Not Arrive Late for your test—you will not be allowed to take it.

Testing News

- We encourage all juniors to take the **SAT and/or the ACT** in the spring of your junior year. Test dates are available in April, May, and June—depending on the test. Check www.collegeboard.com and www.actstudent.org for more information and deadlines. Registration packets are also available in the counseling office.
- **TAKS**
All Juniors must pass exit level TAKS to receive a high school diploma. Test dates are:
Math—April 29th, Science—April 30th, and Social Studies—May 1st.

Registration for 2009-10

Course selection cards for next year were due in February. **In May** you will receive a verification slip listing the courses you requested. If you made a mistake or if you changed your mind about a course, you will be able to make changes on the verification slip. **THIS WILL BE THE ONLY TIME YOU CAN CHANGE ELECTIVES.** Teachers are hired and assigned classes based upon your course selection sheets. **WE WILL NOT MAKE CHANGES IN THE FALL IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT A CLASS.**

This year you will turn in your completed enrollment packet before the end of this school year. If all of your documents are in order, you will be allowed to pick up your schedule in August. At that time your proof of residency and any updated health documents will be collected before you will receive your 2009-10 schedule.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Registration

June 17th 10AM to 6PM

June 18th 8AM to 4PM

Lake Highlands High School

Session I - June 22 to July 3

7:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Session II - July 6 to July 17

7:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Stop by the counseling office to pick up a brochure with more information or visit:

www.risd.org/Schools/summerschool.htm

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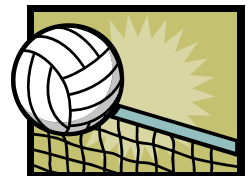
College Athletic Eligibility Division I and II Schools

Prospective student-athletes who wish to participate in Division I or II sports must be certified by the NCAA Clearinghouse. Specific requirements regarding core courses, test scores, and grade point average can be obtained by going to the NCAA website:
www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

You can also request "The Guide for the College-bound Student Athlete" by calling: 1-800-638-3731. This guide provides a summary of the rules and regulations in an easy-to-read form. If you plan on playing sports in college, it is very important that you begin investigating this process as soon as possible.

Don't forget to look in the 2009-2010 RISD Program of Studies for academic eligibility requirements.

See Appendix B (pages 232-242).



Pathways to College Credit at RHS

You can earn college credits at little or no cost, enter college with advanced status, and graduate from high school with lots of college hours already completed!

Dual credit, AP® and Tech Prep programs at RHS offer you the opportunity to earn college credits and save thousands in tuition and other college costs!

See your counselor ASAP for more details!

SERVICE ACADEMIES AND CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS

- Acceptance to one of the U. S. Service Academies requires a Congressional or Service Connected Nomination. Most congress members have organized a committee to assist them in awarding nominations to the U.S. Service Academies.
- The Committee carefully evaluates each applicant's qualifications, including the legal domicile. The committee will consider evidence of character, scholarship, leadership, physical aptitude, medical fitness, goals and motivation in determining each applicant's overall qualifications, and then recommend who should receive nominations.
- Upon approval by your Congressman, the nominations are forwarded to the respective service academies. Each service academy then determines which of the nominees will be offered an Appointment (offer of admission).
- These appointments are full four-year scholarships valued at \$350,000. Any student interested in an appointment should contact their senator or representative in the spring of their junior year to request an application.

ARMY: www.usma.edu

AIR FORCE: www.usafa.af.mil

COAST GUARD: www.cga.edu**

NAVY: www.usna.edu

MERCHANT MARINES: www.usmma.edu

(**nomination no longer required)

College Visits

- A maximum of three (3) college visitation days are available to students to be taken between the beginning of their junior year through their senior year as determined by the student.
- The requirements necessary to approve designated college visitation (excused absence) will include:

RHS SCHOOL CODE:
445-840

- 1) note from parent/guardian submitted to the RHS grade level office **PRIOR** to planned college visit indicating college location and absence date; and
- 2) **upon return**, documentation of visit submitted on college letterhead must include the student's name and date of visit.



- *Students who do not provide the necessary documents for approved college visits will receive an **unexcused absence**.*

College News and Summer Programs

The following is a partial list of summer programs available:

- Stanford University—High School Summer College
www.summer.stanford.edu
- Baylor University's Premiere events will be held spring and fall Visit [www. Baylor.edu/admissions](http://www.Baylor.edu/admissions) and click on "Visit Campus" for more information.
- UNT Summer Math Institute
www.tams.unt.edu
- USC Summer Seminars
www.usc.edu/summer
- UT—Austin Global Ethics and Conflict Resolution Camp
www.utpcr.org
- Texas A & M Engineering Insights Summer Camp
essap.tamu.edu/ei/info.htm
- SMU's Summer Youth Program
www.smu.edu?education/youth/
- Prairie View A&M Summer Engineering Institute

www.pvamu.edu/sti
(18 Scholarships available!)

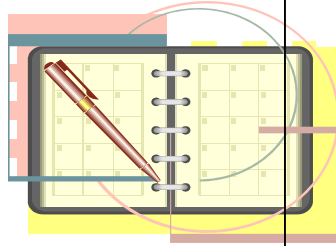
- To search for other college summer programs, go to the college's website and try typing "2008 summer programs for high school students" in the Search Box.



2009 Junior Calendar

APRIL

- * Schedule college visits.
- * **Make sure you registered for the SAT and/or ACT.**
- * Continue to request admission information from colleges. Most applications will be due between Sept. 2009 and Jan. 2010. You cannot wait until next year!
- * Narrow list of colleges to a serious level: 5-7.
- * Continue to work diligently on grades.
- * **TAKS testing** will be April 29th—May 1st for Math, Science, and Social Studies, respectively.



MAY

- * Prepare for/take AP exams and semester exams.
- * Finalize course selections for your senior year.
This is it! **You** are responsible for selecting courses and completing credits needed for graduation and/or college entrance.
- * Investigate your summer plans for community service/volunteer work and/or employment opportunities.

JUNE/JULY

- * Review college/career options.
- * Attend summer school if necessary.
- * Complete SAT and/or ACT administrations.
- * Check graduation requirements and credits again.
- * Visit colleges
- * Brainstorm essay topics needed for college applications and/or scholarship competitions.
- * Volunteer work and community service—essential parts of a college application.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

COLLEGE SEARCH

www.nacacnet.org
www.collegeboard.com
www.collegenet.com
www.mycollegeguide.org
www.petersons.com
www.review.com
www.edonline.com/cq/hbcu
www.collegeispossible.org
www.campustours.com
www.ctcl.com

COLLEGE APPLICATION INFO

www.applytexas.org
www.commonapp.org

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

www.fastweb.com
www.finaid.org
www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.fastap.org
www.hsf.net
www.blackexcel.org/link4.htm
www.collegefortexans.com
www.texasscholars.org
www.nasfaa.org
www.tqslc.org
www.ed.gov/finaid.html
www.srnexpress.com
www.salliema.com

CAREER SEARCH

www.militarycareers.com

Free and Reduced Lunch

Remember that students who are on the Free/Reduced Lunch Program may qualify for fee waivers for admission tests, college applications, and certain scholarships. You may also receive fee reductions for night and summer school as well as other benefits. **Even if you do not eat lunch, fill out the forms.** Applications are available in the counseling office.