

NEWS FOR GUILFORD SENIORS & PARENTS

IMPORTANT DATES 2018-2019

Thurs. Sept. 13	Last day for seniors to get photo taken for the yearbook!!
Thurs. Sept. 27	College App Kick-Off Day. Help with college apps 2:45pm in library during early release time.
Mon. Oct. 1	FAFSA application period begins. Apply for aid for the 2019-2020 school year.
Wed. Oct. 3	No School: SIP Day. Visit colleges or military recruiters.
Fri. Oct. 5	Senior assembly in auditorium during Pre-bubbling for fall testing. RVC, FAFSA, and Rockford Promise
Mon. Oct. 8	No School: Columbus Day. Visit colleges or military recruiters.
Wed. Oct. 10	12th graders not in attendance due to school-wide testing. (11th still test)
November 1	Priority application filing date for U of I at Urbana/Champaign and Chicago.
Mon. Nov. 12	No School: Veterans' Day. Visit colleges and military recruiters.
November 15	Priority application filing date for NIU and ISU.
Nov. 21-25	No School: Thanksgiving break.
Fri., Nov 30	2nd hour assembly for seniors to receive Cap and Gown info and scholarship info
December 1	Recommended College application deadline date (to ensure best consideration for admission and scholarships).
December 1	Application period <u>opens</u> for Community Foundation of Northern Illinois Scholarships. (through February 1)
Tues. & Wed. Dec. 4 & 5	Jostens will take Cap & Gown orders at all lunch periods (or order online)
Dec. 19-21	First semester final exams
Dec. 22-Jan 6	Winter Break
Sat. April 27	Senior Prom at Forest Hills Country Club
May 6-17	AP exams
May	Senior final exams. Dates TBD.
May	Senior Awards Breakfast...by invitation only. Date TBD
May	Graduation Practice. Day/time/location TBD.
May?	Graduation TBD

EVENING EVENTS for SENIORS & PARENTS

Tues., Oct. 2 and/or Thurs., Oct. 4	Senior Parent Information Night from 6:00-7:30pm at Guilford. Learn the College Application process and the financial aid timeline and process.
Tues. Oct. 2	Parent Teacher Conferences from 4:30-7:30pm in the field house
Wed. Oct. 3	College Night 2018— Rock Valley College—6:00-8:00pm in the PE Center. Meet with representatives from over 100 colleges, universities, technical, and vocational schools.
Thurs. Oct. 4	Parent Teacher Conferences from 4:30-7:30pm in the field house
Tues. Oct. 16	FAFSA Workshop 5:00-7:30pm in Guilford High School library.
Wed. Oct. 24 <i>Tentative date</i>	FAFSA Workshop at Rock Valley College Student Center starting at 6:00pm.
Wed. Nov. 7	FAFSA Workshop 5:00-7:30pm in Guilford High School library.
Thurs. Nov. 8 <i>Tentative date</i>	FAFSA Workshop at Rock Valley College Student Center starting at 6:00pm.

DEADLINES ARE THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY!

This is YOUR future. Don't miss out on an opportunity because of poor planning and missing deadlines!

Sign up for text-alerts to get reminded of important senior dates, events, and deadlines.

Text @gvikes19 to 81010

Senior Credit Checks

Every senior will be meeting with his/her counselor for a senior credit check and future planning meeting by the end of October. All seniors must make certain that they are scheduled for the proper classes needed for graduation and will have earned forty (48) credits by the date of graduation. We will also review if you have met the Illinois State Testing requirement. Seniors failing required courses during the first semester will need to contact their counselor to obtain the registration form for night school classes at Roosevelt. If students cannot earn all required credits this school year, transferring to Roosevelt Alternative High School will be necessary.

College Application Process

- Narrow your postsecondary options to 3-6 schools.
- Apply to each school (make sure to meet any priority deadlines).
 - Most applications will be online through the college website or Common App.
 - Most require an application fee.
 - Some may require an essay, activity sheet, or recommendation. Only send these items if requested. Allow teachers/adults 2 weeks to complete a recommendation letter.
- Request a high school transcript to be sent to each school through your parchment account. www.parchment.com
 - Exception would be in application is processed through Send Edu, Common App, or self-reported transcript
- Send official SAT or ACT scores if necessary through www.collegeboard.org or www.actstudent.org
- Keep track of account information for each school to check the status of your application.
- Check each school for scholarship procedures and deadlines.
- Beginning October 1st, apply for Financial Aid at www.fafsa.gov.
- Apply for scholarship opportunities throughout the year (lists will be emailed to your RPS student email account).
- Compare financial aid packages and make a final decision by May 1.

Rock Valley College

Over half of our students begin their education at RVC. (See RVC Steps for Enrollment Handout)

- Complete RVC application.
- Submit transcript with ACT scores.
- Apply for Financial Aid beginning October 1st.
- Complete necessary Accuplacer placement tests. Placement tests can be waived if:
ACT English subtest: 19 or above///ACT Math subtest: 18 or above///ACT Reading subtest: 19 or above
SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing subtest: 510 or above///SAT Math subtest: 470 or above
- Meet with an Academic Advisor, then register and pay for classes
- Enroll in and attend a Getting Started Tech Connect Session

College Visits

- College Reps here at Guilford
 - You may sign up to meet with College Reps in Room 218 or in Academy Offices.
 - You may sign up for 3 visits (unless at your lunch time...then unlimited).
- If you travel to visit a college campus during school, please have a parent call to excuse your absence as a college visit.
- RVC College Fair is Wednesday, October 3rd from 6-8pm in the PE Center at Rock Valley College.

Military

- Meet with a recruiter.
- Plan to take the ASVAB test (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery). Arrange this with a recruiter.
- All males must register with the selective service at age 18. www.sss.gov

Financial Aid/Scholarships

- FAFSA!! Apply online beginning October 1st. Complete the application for 2019-2020!! Your source for all federal and state loan, grant and work-study programs. Many colleges will not award you scholarships unless you have filed a FAFSA.
- Institution-based Scholarships...research scholarship opportunities through every college where you apply.
- Local/State/Federal scholarships...GHS creates a scholarship bulletin and emails the list of opportunities to students and parents about once a month. Be sure to check your RPS student email account.

Letters of Recommendation

- Make sure you have a BLUE senior profile sheet completed and on file with your counselor.
- Complete a Request for a Letter of Recommendation to give your teacher/adult with a copy of your senior profile sheet.
- Give teachers/counselors/other adults at least 2 weeks notice to write you a letter.

Participation in Graduation Ceremony

- Seniors planning to participate in the graduation ceremony must wear the traditional graduation cap and gown.
- Rich Harner of Jostens is our sales rep for caps and gowns. An assembly will be held on Friday, November 30th during 2nd hour regarding cap and gown orders. Orders will be made on Dec. 4th and 5th during lunches or online.
- **Graduation date/time TO BE DETERMINED.** As soon as we know, look for information in your student email account and the REMIND app. Last year, we were able to guarantee each graduate 6 tickets for guests. However, the number of tickets will depend on the number of graduates and will be determined closer to graduation.

Parchment.com

The simple online way to **Request, Send, and Store Transcripts.**

Including powerful tools to research colleges and find the right fit for you.

Request & Send Transcripts

Step 1: Log in or Register



1. Sign in at www.parchment.com
2. Click **Sign Up** to log in or register your account

Step 2: Add your school to your Profile



1. Click Get Started
2. Add your High School

Step 3: Provide Consent



1. Complete the waiver form.
2. Complete the Transcript Authorization form by eSigning

Step 4: Add Destinations



1. Select Destinations such as colleges, NCAA, Common Application, or yourself
2. Review Destinations

Step 5: Payment



1. Provide debit/credit card payment if there are any fees

Step 6: Track Order



1. The status of your request will be emailed and updated in your Parchment.com Account

More than 3 Million students use
Parchment to send Transcripts

Rock Valley College Enrollment Steps...

Whether you plan to attend RVC full-time or just take a summer class, you need to complete these steps before graduation...

Check off each step as you have completed it.

___ 1. **Apply for admission.**

Complete the enrollment form online at www.RockValleyCollege.edu/Application.

Admissions office number is (815)921-4250.

___ 2. **Fund your education.**

Apply for financial aid using the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov beginning on October 1st.

The RVC code is 001747. Contact the RVC Financial Aid office with any questions (815)921-4150.

___ 3. **Determine Placement.**

Either submit your ACT or SAT scores or take the ACCUPLACER test.

- ACT cut off scores: Reading 19, Math 18, English 19

SAT cut off scores: ERW 510, Math 470

(If you do not meet these cut scores, you must take the ACCUPLACER test).

- ACCUPLACER testing: Test in the Student Center. Walk-in testing times are 9am-2pm Monday-Thursday. Or Tuesday and Thursday evenings by appointment by calling (815)921-2380. **You must bring an ID to test.**
- You should prepare for the ACCUPLACER by going to www.RockValleyCollege.edu/placementtest or by Googling ACCUPLACER sample questions. There is also an ACCUPLACER study app available for download for your computer or mobile device for FREE.

___ 4. **Visit Academic & Transfer or Career Advising.**

Before signing up for classes, it is important to meet with an advisor to make the right choices for you. Be ready to identify your career goals. To set up an advising appointment, call (815)921-4100.

___ 5. **Register and Pay.**

You can register for your classes online or in-person on campus. Online you register at www.RockValleyCollege.edu/OnlineServices. You must pay for your courses by deadlines in order to stay enrolled in your coursework. Registration and Records can be contacted at (815)921-4250.

___ 6. **Attend a Getting Started Center "Tech Connect Session".**

This session will provide an introduction to utilizing RVC Online Services and the RVC EAGLE Learning Management Systems. Call 815-921-4094 for info on how to sign up.

___ (Only if applicable) **Disability Support Services.**

If you have a disability or an IEP, you may contact the Office of Disability Support Services to see what assistance you may be able to receive in college. (815)921-2356

Need Help Paying for College?

Get Help Completing the 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

ISAC College Q&A

Get answers from ISAC (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) directly to your phone. Text with college mentors, get info on college planning events, and reminders of important deadlines. **Simply text your name to 815-242-4630.** Guilford's ISAC rep is Caleb McKay. You can email him questions at Caleb.McKay@illinois.gov.

At Guilford High School

Caleb McKay from ISAC (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) is available most Wednesdays at Guilford from **10:30am-1:30pm (lunch periods)** in the Guilford library to assist students and/or parents in completing the FAFSA. Please bring necessary financial records with you (listed on the back of this sheet). ISAC Rep will be in the library "glass room" on the following Wednesdays from **10:30am-1:30pm**, please plan to see him during your lunch period:

- October 17
- October 24
- October 31
- November 7
- November 14
- November 28
- December 5
- December 12

There will be evening events at Guilford to assist students/parents with completing the FAFSA as well. Evening sessions will most likely be held in the library.

- Tuesday, October 16th from 5:00-7:30pm
- Wednesday, November 7th from 5:00-7:30pm

At Rock Valley College

Students and parents who need help completing the FAFSA can also receive help at Rock Valley College. Visit www.rockvalleycollege.edu or call Rock Valley College Financial Aid office at 815-921-4150 for a list of their FAFSA completion events. **Tentative dates** for FAFSA completion nights at RVC are:

- Wednesday, October 24th @RVC
- Thursday, November 8th @RVC

WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO **COMPLETE** MY **2019-20 FAFSA?**

Complete Your FAFSA® at FAFSA.gov

- Social Security Number. Be sure it is correct!
- Your Alien Registration Number, if you (student) are not a U.S. citizen.
- Your 2017 federal tax returns, W-2's, and other records of income.
- Banking statements and records of investments (if applicable).
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable).
- An FSA ID to sign electronically. (This can be created beforehand at fsaid.ed.gov, or at the time of application).
- List of colleges you would like to attend.

If you are a dependent student, you will report your and your parents' information.

If you are an independent student, you will only report your own information (and, if you are married, your spouse's). Please visit studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/dependency for more information.

Parents who do not have a Social Security Number must enter 000-00-0000 on the FAFSA.

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isac.org



¿QUÉ INFORMACIÓN NECESITO PARA **LLENAR** MI **FAFSA PARA 2019-20?**

Llena tu FAFSA® en FAFSA.gov

- Número de Seguro Social. Asegúrate que esté correcto.
- Número de registro de extranjero o tarjeta de residencia permanente del ESTUDIANTE (si no es ciudadano de EE.UU.).
- La declaración de impuestos del 2017, así como W-2s, y documentos de otros ingresos.
- Información sobre ahorros e inversiones.
- Información sobre ingresos no tributales.
- Una FSA ID (nombre de usuario y contraseña) para firmar electrónicamente. Puede ser creada de antemano en fsaid.ed.gov, o al llenar la FAFSA.
- Lista de universidades/colegios a los que te gustaría asistir.

Si eres considerado estudiante dependiente, tendrás que reportar tu información y la de tus padres.

Si eres considerado estudiante independiente, solamente tendrás que reportar tu información (y la de tu esposa/o si eres una persona casada). Favor de referirte a studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/dependency si tienes preguntas.

En el caso de padres que no tengan número de Seguro Social, deberán ingresar 000-00-0000 donde lo pide en la FAFSA.

isac.org



3. HONORS AND AWARDS- List honors and awards you have received (school, church, community) while in high school and designate year(s).

HONOR/AWARD	GRADE			
	9	10	11	12

4. List work experience (volunteer or paid) since 9th grade indicating nature of work, place of employment and number of hours per week.

5. List hobbies, interests, and special talents.

6. List future educational and occupational goals.

7. List what you consider to be your strengths and weaknesses.

STRENGTHS

WEAKNESSES

8. List personal qualities you would like emphasized in your reference, as well as any unusual family circumstances.

ALL OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS ACCURATE AND DOES NOT MISREPRESENT ME IN ANY MANNER.

Student Signature

Date

HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR SENIORS—2019

Online transcript requests: www.parchment.com

Request your high school transcripts to be sent online. These transcripts are sent and processed electronically for free to all accredited Illinois colleges and many other colleges in nearby states. Create your own sign in, request transcripts, and track them online.

Career Cruising: www.careercruising.com

Explore career and college options and develop a career plan. From this site you can access interest and skills assessments, career profiles, multimedia interviews, college and financial aid information, electronic career portfolio, and build resumes.

To log into site:

Username: guilford

Password: vikings

Then to access your individual account:

Individual username: 205-XXXXXX (Xs = your ID number)

Individual password: mmddyyyy (#s of your birthdate)

FAFSA—Free Application for Federal Student Aid: www.fafsa.gov

Apply for federal and state financial aid here (beginning **October 1** of your senior year). Eligibility for grants, loans and work-study programs is determined here.

Federal Student Aid Information: www.studentaid.gov

Information about types of financial aid and how the financial aid process works. Can set up your FSA ID at www.studentaid.gov/fsaid. The FSA ID is necessary for students and parents to electronically submit the FAFSA.

Illinois Student Assistance Commission: www.isac.org

Illinois organization that assists students in accessing college. Information about financial aid programs for Illinois residents attending Illinois colleges and universities.

The College Board: www.collegeboard.org

Official SAT and AP website. Register and prepare for the SAT, order score reports, get info about planning for and paying for college. Guilford's SAT code is 143-703

ACT: www.actstudent.org

Official ACT website. Register for upcoming ACT tests, college planning info, test preparation, order score reports, etc. Guilford's ACT code is 143-703.

NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse: www.eligibilitycenter.org

Comprehensive website for college bound student athletes. NCAA eligibility information and application. Application is \$80 to process.

Rock Valley College: www.rockvalleycollege.edu

Jostens: www.jostens.com

Our cap and gown company. Ordering will be explained in an upcoming senior assembly.

Home Access Center: www.rps205.com or ESchool Plus Family app

Students and parents can monitor academics, attendance, etc. to help stay informed about academic success.

REMIND: Text @gvikes19 to 81010

Receive text reminders about important events and deadlines during your senior year.

Writing an Essay for College Admission/Scholarships

What is the purpose? There are 2 main reasons that a college or scholarship would request an essay as a part of the evaluation process. If they ask for an essay...it will be considered as a part of the admissions/selection process!!

1. They want to see if you can write well. Success in college requires a lot of analytical thinking and writing in your coursework.
2. They want to learn more about you and how you would add to their college campus.

Sometimes schools have alternative admissions procedures which allow for a more holistic view of the student rather than just SAT/GPA. In this case the essay is critical and allows you the opportunity to share more about your potential for success than what your numbers show.

Types of Essays:

- **Personal Statement:** more general in nature and gives you the opportunity to tell more about yourself or about things that have influenced you. See backside of page for brainstorming questions to come up with a response.
- **Structured Question:** you must respond to a specific prompt that may be more creative, analytical or philosophical in nature. These are the Essay Prompts for the 2018-19 Common Application:
 1. *Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.*
 2. *The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?*
 3. *Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?*
 4. *Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.*
 5. *Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.*
 6. *Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?*
 7. *Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.*

Getting Started....Brainstorming the College Essay:

Things to ask yourself:

1. What are your major accomplishments, and why do you consider them accomplishments?
Tae kwon do black belt, winning student council election, overcoming a fear
2. Do you have an attribute, quality or skill that distinguishes you from everyone else? How did you develop this?
3. What was the most difficult time in your life and why? How has it shaped who you are? How are you a better person because of it?
4. Of everything in the world, what would you most like to be doing right now? Where would you be? With whom? These questions should help you realize what you love most.
5. How would your friends characterize you? What would they write about if they were writing your admissions essay for you?
6. What are your most important extracurricular or community activities? What made you join these activities? What made you continue to contribute to them?
7. What are your dreams of the future? When you look back on your life in 10 years or 30 years, what would it take for you to consider your life successful? What people, things, and accomplishments do you need? How does college fit into your plans for the future?

Other ways to get started:

- Ask your friends or relatives to write a list of your 5 most evident personality traits. Compare the lists and see what sticks out. Seeing yourself through the eyes of others may help you.
- Consider your childhood. What events or activities that you did as a child are still part of your life today. Analyze the reasons for your interests and how they were shaped from your upbringing.
- Consider your role models. Who has inspired you to become the person you are today? Or who do you strive to be like?
- Read sample admissions essays. Before you write a poem, you read other poets' work. In the same way, it is helpful to read sample admissions essays. Search Google. **Be warned against plagiarism!!**
- Goal determination. Life is short. What do you want to spend the next several years of your life in college? How is the degree necessary to fulfill your goals? Think beyond just your future career...how will your education help lead you to a fulfilling life?