

COUNTDOWN TO GRADUATION

Planning for graduation begins as soon as you enter Rockville High School. Be sure to take advantage of everything high school has to offer and plan ahead. Good decisions follow a timetable, so it pays to get yourself organized.

- Read** The more you read the better prepared you are for the world of work and for college.
Write Improve your writing skills as much as you can. The ability to communicate on the job and in college is vital.
Develop Develop good study habits, time management, and decision-making skills.
Choose Choose your subjects wisely. Consider taking college prep mathematics, science, and foreign language courses (Maryland State Universities require Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and two years of the **same** foreign language). **Strength of high school curriculum is a prime consideration for college admissions.**

Ninth Grade

Fall

- Make a good start! Work hard - remember that grades earned in ninth grade are part of your official high school transcript. Don't miss class unless absolutely necessary. Make up missed work promptly.
- Make an appointment to meet your counselor to discuss academic/career plans, personal and academic strengths.
- Visit the College/Career Center to become familiar with the resources available there.
- Participate in school extracurricular activities.

Spring

- Meet with your counselor to plan next year's schedule and review your academic progress.
- Attend career information programs.
- Work on earning your student service learning hours (75 hours needed for graduation).
- Check the summer program file in the College/Career Center.

Tenth Grade

Fall

- Maintain excellent attendance.
- Extend your participation in extracurricular activities.
- Take the PSAT to learn how you do with this kind of test.
- Visit the College/Career Center. Familiarize yourself with Career and College exploration resources.
- Find out what kinds of post-secondary schools offer the education you need to meet your career plans.

Spring

- Plan next year's program to reflect your interests and school progress.
- Consider career and technology course offerings at the Thomas Edison High School of Technology.
- Consult with teachers about taking the SAT Subject tests in subjects you have completed.
- Continue earning student service learning hours over the summer.
- Visit the College/Career Center over the summer to begin investigating colleges and other post-secondary schools.
- Begin visiting colleges, trade, and technical schools over the summer.
- Find out about summer enrichment programs. (The College/Career Center has an extensive list on file.)

NOTE - FYI

The University of Maryland expects the following, at a minimum, of its applicants:

- Four years of English
- Three years of mathematics, including algebra or applied math I & II, formal logic or geometry and algebra II
- Three years of history or social science
- Three years of science in at least two different areas, with at least two lab experiences
- Two years of a foreign language

These criteria represent the minimum requirements to be considered for admission. Successful applicants typically present academic credentials which exceed the minimum, including a fourth year of mathematics and several honors and/or AP /IB courses and additional academic electives. A fourth year of mathematics is strongly recommended.

To illustrate, Rockville High School graduates from the Class of 2009 who were accepted to the University of Maryland College Park had an average weighted GPA of 4.21 and an average SAT score of 1291.

Eleventh Grade

Fall

- Register for and take the PSAT/NMSQT. You will meet with your counselor to discuss results.
- Faithfully read the Career Center News, posted weekly in classrooms, in the College/Career Center, and on RHS's home page (www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/rockvillehs).
- Meet with post-secondary school representatives who visit Rockville High School's College/Career Center.
- Attend career presentations sponsored by your school, MCPS, and the business community.
- Get information on apprenticeship programs and trade and technical schools, if interested.
- Acquire part-time volunteer or job experiences related to career plans.
- Monitor your student service learning hours.
- Meet with your counselor about your progress.

Spring

- Consider career goals as you select classes.
- Plan next year's program to enhance prospects for employment opportunities and college admissions.
- Register for and take ACT and/or SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests.
- Make an appointment with Ms.Harris to visit the College/Career Center to use the computer search programs to identify appropriate colleges, trade, or technical schools.
- Visit college campuses over spring break when their classes are in session.
- Attend college fairs and school-sponsored programs. Confer with your counselor about postsecondary plans.
- Attend career information programs.
- Spend time in the College/Career Center exploring materials and summer enrichment programs.
- Assemble a file of materials collected from postsecondary schools and Rockville's Counseling Services.
- Develop your resume/personal references. Register in **Naviance** and keep your portfolio up to date.
- Continue earning student service learning hours if needed. Consider completing this before Grade 12.
- Attend RHS's **College Planning Night during the spring of 2010 / TBD**

Twelfth Grade

Summer/Early Fall

- Make an appointment with your counselor for you and your parents to discuss postsecondary plans and to review high school records, including all graduation requirements.
- Visit RHS's College/Career Center in the summer to investigate colleges/technical schools and finalize your list.
- Request applications from colleges and technical schools. Set up a file system for information received.
- Register for and take ACT and/or SAT and/or SAT Subject Tests.
- Complete any remaining student service learning hours.
- Visit colleges, trade/technical schools. Talk to admissions representatives who visit the Career Center.

Fall

- Take ACT, SAT and SAT Subject tests if needed.
- Attend college and career programs sponsored by the Counseling Services Office.
- Stay abreast of all scholarship opportunities by reading the Career Center News, using the resources of the College/Career Center, and by checking the internet.
- Familiarize yourself with Rockville's transcript procedures and follow instructions.
- Seek letters of recommendation if needed. **Give teachers and counselors sufficient notice.**
- Fill out applications well in advance of each college's deadlines.
- If required, request a mid-year transcript to be sent to your colleges by February 1.
- **Attend Rockville High School's Financial Aid Workshop on November 5, 2009 at 7:00pm.**
- Complete a Resume.

Winter

- Most parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA - **mail as soon as possible after January 1**) and other financial forms as required by postsecondary schools. Be sure to check to see which forms are required and **mail by their deadlines**. FAFSA deadline for Maryland grants and scholarships is **March 1** and **FAFSA priority deadline for UMCP is February 15, 2010.**
- Continue to seek scholarships; read the Career Center News and use other free resources.

Spring

- Maintain good grades and good attendance.
- Attend job fairs; contact Maryland Department of Economics and Employment Development for job openings.
- Notify your counselor and the registrar of your application status as you hear from colleges.
- Request a final transcript to be sent to the college you will attend in the fall.
- Notify the other colleges to which you applied that you are not planning to attend.