

PLANNING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Listed below are practical suggestions for students and parents.

Freshmen

Make a four year plan (PGP) for graduation in eighth grade to plan courses for freshman year.

Select courses that meet all graduation requirements.

Plan to take pre-AP and/or Dual Credit courses.

Visit with the counselor to get help with choosing challenging courses to prepare you for future academic pursuits.

Participate in school related activities and community service.

Begin a resume/portfolio of accomplishments, honors, and awards.

Use online college and career research resources. (See RHS Counselor webpage)

Remember that courses and grades determine the Grade Point Average (GPA).

Work hard- every assignment and test matters!

Sophomores

Review and update your *Graduation Plan (PGP)*.

Review and discuss your transcript with your counselor.

Continue choosing to take rigorous courses.

Take the PSAT in October for practice. The PSAT will help prepare you for the PSAT/NMSQT in the 11th grade.

Take the TSI if you plan to take dual credit courses next year.

Participate in school related activities and community service.

Consider taking on leadership roles within school organizations.

Update your resume/portfolio of accomplishments, honors, and awards.

Continue using online college and career research resources. (See RHS Counselor webpage)

Consider job shadowing- observe someone who does the job you think you may like to do.

Continue working hard academically- every assignment and test grade matters!
They ALL contribute to your overall GPA.

Juniors

Take pre-AP and/or Dual Credit courses to experience a college level curriculum. Colleges look for pre-AP designation, GPA and rank on high school transcripts at the end of the junior year.

Review and update your Graduation Plan (PGP).

Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October. Use the PSAT score report to study and improve SAT scores.

Take the SAT/ACT in the spring of the junior year.

Take the TSI if you plan to take dual credit courses next year.

Participate in school related activities and community service.

Consider taking on leadership roles within school organizations.

Update your resume/portfolio of accomplishments.

Continue using online college and career research resources. (See RHS Counselor webpage)

Attend College Fairs to gather information on colleges and careers. (RHS will go to TVCC)

Begin narrowing college choices to a short list. Get to know the requirements of admissions for colleges of interest to you.

Plan college visits in the spring semester. The district allows two college visits during your junior year.

Prospective college athletes should register with NCAA Clearinghouse at the end of junior year.

Consider job shadowing- observe someone who does the job you think you may like to do.

Continue working hard academically- every assignment and test grade matters! They ALL contribute to your overall GPA.

Seniors

Plan a schedule with rigorous coursework and activities. Colleges look at courses and grades in making admission decisions and students must be prepared to compete academically on the college campus.

Take pre-AP and/or Dual Credit courses to experience a college level curriculum. Colleges look for pre-AP and dual credit designations on high school transcripts.

Schedule core curriculum courses in the senior year even if graduation requirements for the course have been completed. Students must focus on preparation for future academic pursuits.

Review your Grade Point Average (GPA) and your test scores to make wise choices on courses for the senior year and for college entrance requirements.

Participate in school-related activities and community service. Institutes of higher learning strongly encourage student involvement in activities along with academics.

Update your resume/portfolio of accomplishments.

Attend college fairs (RHS will go to TVCC).

Plan college visits during the fall semester. The district allows two college visits during your senior year.

Get organized. Mark your calendar with deadline events. Mark files for each school and scholarship. Keep copies of all applications.

Review SAT/ACT scores and take again in early fall, if necessary.

Make sure SAT/ACT scores have been forwarded to colleges in which you have interest.

Take TSI if you are attending a Texas public college or university. (Check with your counselor to see if STAAR, ACT, or SAT scores exempt you from the test.)

Attend Financial Aid Night at Rains High School in the fall.

Prepare to do taxes early. (FASFA, the financial aid form, requires figures from parent and student completed tax returns.)

Complete FAFSA as early as October 1st. Priority deadline for Texas Public Schools is mid-March.

Check admissions, housing and scholarship deadlines for schools still on your list. *(Many deadlines fall as early as November)*

Apply to your choice colleges prior to deadline.

Search and apply for scholarships early and meet all deadlines. Use the internet for scholarship searches, plus college websites for campus scholarships.

Wait for decisions from institutions. Make final decision and notify college of your choice.

Request final transcript to be sent to the college you plan to attend.