

Class of 2012

Post-Secondary Planning



ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Regular Registration Postmark Deadline (Regular fee - \$34; Plus writing - \$49.50)	Late Registration (Regular fee plus \$21 late fee)
September 10, 2011	August 12, 2011	Aug. 13 - Aug. 26, 2011
October 22, 2011	Sept. 16, 2011	Sept. 17 - Sept. 30, 2011
December 10, 2011	November 4, 2011	Nov. 5 - Nov. 18, 2011
February 11, 2012	January 13, 2012	Jan. 14 - Jan. 20, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10 - March 23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 5 - May 18, 2012

- Register online at www.actstudents.org
- Rock Bridge High School Test Center - 179400
- Registration Parties in Guidance:
 - Oct. 26th, Nov. 1st, Jan. 10th and 12th
 - Come in and get help registering, sending scores, etc.

SAT Test Dates

Test Date	Regular Registration Postmark Deadline (regular fee - \$49 for SAT I)	Late Registration (Regular fee plus \$26 late fee)
October 1, 2011	Sept. 9, 2011	Sept. 10 - Sept. 21, 2011
Nov. 5, 2011	Oct. 7, 2011	Oct. 8 - Oct. 21, 2011
Dec. 3, 2011	Nov. 8, 2011	Nov. 9 - Nov. 20, 2011
Jan. 28, 2012	Dec. 30, 2011	Dec. 31 - Jan. 13, 2012
March 10, 2012*	Feb. 10, 2012	Feb. 11 - Feb. 24, 2012
May 5, 2012	Apr. 6, 2012	Apr. 7 - Apr. 20, 2012
June 2, 2012	May 8, 2012	May 9 - May 22, 2012
*In March, only the SAT I is offered.		*Language tests with listening are offered in November only

- Register online at www.collegeboard.com
- Hickman High School Test Center - 26-125
- Make sure to send your scores to your colleges AND RBHS

Compass Test Dates/Signup

2011

- **Tuesday, September 20 (A)** 7:50 am
- Wednesday, October 19 (A) 11:50 am
- **Thursday, November 17 (B)** 7:50 am
- Friday, December 16 (B) 11:50 am

2012

- **Monday, January 9 (A)** 7:50 am
- Tuesday, January 24 (A) 11:50 am
- **Wednesday, February 8 (B)** 7:50 am
- Thursday, February 23 (A) 11:50 am
- **Friday, March 2 (B)** 7:50 am
- Monday, March 19 (A) 11:50 am
- **Tuesday, April 17 (A)** 7:50 am
- Wednesday, May 16 (B) 11:50 am

Registration in Room 126 at CACC and is offered as space is available.

- Current CACC Students
Test fee: NO cost
Retest: \$5

- Non CACC high school students
Test fee: \$15
Retest: \$20

(ie. Graduates or someone who was here last year and not this year OR other high school students). If special conditions apply, discuss with test coordinator.

Preparing for ACT/SAT/Compass Tests

- Free Materials Available in Guidance
- Books and Software available at bookstores
- Prep courses at Focus on Learning, Career Center, Sylvan
- GOOGLE! There are tons of websites with free test questions and test advice.
- YOUTUBE! There are free videos from test prep professionals out there with great tips and advice.

RBHS ACT Test Help

ACT Super Saturdays

Super Saturdays are one, full-day ACT test preparation opportunities available to all students. They can expect to take a practice ACT test under actual test-taking conditions. They have a chance to score their test and get feedback, as well as learn test taking strategies, techniques, and study skills from each of the content area teachers.

Dates:	Deadline to Register	Time:
Sat., Oct. 1 (with a short break for lunch)	Fri., Sept. 23	7:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., April 7	Fri., March 16	7:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Registration Information: Sign up and pay at the front desk of the Guidance office.

Cost: \$20.00 per Super Saturday session.

RBHS ACT Test Help

After School ACT Test Prep

This test preparation opportunity is conveniently split up into four, after school sessions. Students take one section of a practice ACT test at each session. They have a chance to score their test and get feedback, as well as learn test taking strategies, techniques, and study skills from each of the content area teachers.

Dates:

Fall Package: Wed., Nov. 30 (Reading)
Thur., Dec. 1 (Math)
Wed., Dec. 7 (English)
Thur., Dec. 8 (Science)

Time:

3:15 – 5:15 p.m.
(all sessions)

Deadline to Register:

Fri., Nov. 18

Spring Package: Mon., Jan. 30 (Reading)
Wed., Feb. 1 (Math)
Mon., Feb. 6 (English)
Wed., Feb. 8 (Science)

3:15 – 5:15 p.m.
(all sessions)

Fri., Jan. 20

Registration Information: Sign up and pay at the front desk of the Guidance office.

Cost: \$20.00 per 4 Session Fall or Spring package.

Where and How to Research Colleges

- How do you feel most comfortable doing research?
- **Online:** Visit schools' websites as well as online resources in the "Links/Online Resources" part of the guidance website:
<http://tinyurl.com/23euygs>
- **Books:** In guidance, library, or local bookstore
- **Conversations:** Talk to alumni or students at schools to find out about their experiences...
- **Visit with Admissions officers:** They come to RB – See Ms. Moore to sign up **before** the day of the visit!

Avoid relying on preconceived notions or ideas:

Find out for yourself!!

Campus Visits

Maximizing the Campus Visit:

- ✓ Meet with an admission counselor
 - ✓ Verify admission requirements and deadlines
 - ✓ Investigate your academic program(s)
- ✓ See the Campus
 - ✓ Take a campus tour
 - ✓ Attend a class
 - ✓ Talk with students and faculty
- ✓ Meet with Financial Aid Officer
 - ✓ Determine actual college costs
 - ✓ Ask about financial aid opportunities and deadlines

Questions to Ask on Visit

- What activities and services are available to help students get settled (academically and socially) during their first year?
- How big are the classes?
- (Ask students) How easy is it to meet with faculty?
- (Ask students) Are you able to register for the classes you want?
- What is the total cost of attending the college?
- What types of financial aid does the college offer, how do I apply, and what are the deadlines?
- Are all freshmen assigned to an academic advisor?
- Where do most freshmen live?
- What campus areas will I be able to tour and will I be able to visit a class in my area?

More Questions

- What activities are available for students?
- Who teaches the courses for first-year students?
- How successful are the college's graduates in finding jobs in my chosen career area?
- What is the percentage of graduates accepted into graduate school or professional school?
- What services (such as transportation and shopping) are available locally?
- What is there to do on weekends? Do most students stay or leave campus on weekends?

Planning Calendar

■ September

- Narrow college choices
- Request application materials
- Register for ACT/SAT
- Fill out College Rec form for counselors and/or write your resume

■ October

- Mid MO College Fair Oct. 24th at Hearnese
- Ask teachers for recommendations
- College visits
- Begin scholarship search

Planning Calendar

■ November

- Early decision applications due
- Give/email us Secondary School Counselor report to complete
- Continue scholarship search

■ December

- Complete college applications
- Visit recruiters
- Visit colleges over Winter Break

Planning Calendar

■ January

- Obtain FAFSA form (submit ASAP after Jan. 1)
- Give/email us your Mid-Year Counselor Report
- Continue Scholarship search

■ February

- FAFSA form should be in
- Sign up for AP exams

Planning Calendar

■ March

- Receive and complete housing information
- Submit tax forms to financial aid office
- Make final campus visits

■ April

- Make final school decision (mail deposits)
- Notify schools you will NOT be attending
- Watch for school deadlines

Planning Calendar

■ May

- Take AP exams
- Request final transcript be sent
- Prepare for final exams

Graduation

(May 19, 2012)

- Will you be there?????

■ June

- Plan for college orientation
- Follow up with financial aid office to ensure paperwork is complete

What does the College Application Look Like?

■ What does a college application look like?

✓ Most:

- ✓ General demographic information
- ✓ Course history/current enrollment
- ✓ GPA...We no longer rank students –
 - ✓ Write this in: “Columbia Public Schools is no longer a ranking district”
- ✓ ACT/SAT/Compass Scores

✓ Maybe:

- ✓ Activities – Have a resume ready
- ✓ Short Answer Questions
- ✓ Essay/Personal Statement
- ✓ Recommendations and/or Counselor Form
- Most applications can be found online.

Requesting Transcripts

- There is a form in Guidance
- Need parent signature if you are NOT 18
- Allow two weeks for processing
- \$2 fee with each request
- Schools **MUST** have a transcript with your applications!!!!!!

College Deadlines

- There is **no one deadline** for college applications so be sure to check **with each individual college** and leave yourself plenty of time to COMPLETE the process.
- These may be due **as early as November 1st** so start checking now!

A bit about etiquette

Responsible

- Ask two weeks early, **in person**, with correct details about requests for letters or recommendation forms.

Prepared

- Have a resume or recommendation form completed for us to reference.

Respectful

- Please be SUPER polite and kind to Ms. Moore, Ms. Davis and your teachers – they are incredibly busy.

Grateful

A thank you note is an appropriate way to show your gratitude.

Scholarships

- Scholarships are posted on website (Updated on a weekly basis!!!)
- University/College scholarship applications
- FAFSA Form
- Federal Programs
- State Programs

Financial Aid: Making it all possible

COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA) – EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC) = FINANCIAL NEED (AID)

GRANTS:

- Financial assistance that **does not** have to be repaid

SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Financial assistance that **does not** have to be repaid; usually based on merit or ability

LOANS

- Financial assistance that **does** have to be repaid

EMPLOYMENT:

- Work study and/or summer jobs for students to earn money toward education

FAFSA

What:

- **Free** application for federal student aid. Developed by the Federal government to standardize distribution of aid money

Why:

- EVERYONE SHOULD complete it every year to determine financial aid eligibility and awards. Must be completed to get any aid and/or student loans.

Where:

- Home, School, or get help at the **FAFSA FRENZY – Sunday, February 18, 2012**
 - **9 am-12pm at the Career Center**

How:

- **Online at www.fafsa.ed.gov**

**When: Available January 1, 2012:
Taxes should be completed ASAP to
avoid having to make corrections
and adjustments.**

- **Deadline for Institution: Varies!**
- Deadline for MO Aid: April 1, 2012
- Deadline for USA Aid: June 1, 2012

WHERE TO FIND SCHOLARSHIPS

Be sure to keep track of the scholarships, their requirements, deadlines etc using a notebook or spreadsheet!

School/Program Specific

- Check website, talk to aid and admission officer

Nationwide, free scholarship searches

- www.fastweb.com, www.brokescholar.com, check our website for a greater list.

RBHS Targeted Scholarships

- List we keep on our site of those sent to us

Community Scholarship Application

- List of about 30 scholarships given to our community
- Will be presented to you in mid-winter.

NOVEMBER 1 IS THE DEADLINE FOR SENIORS TO APPLY FOR A+ ELIGIBILITY

- A student who qualifies according to the following criteria and continues an education at a Missouri public community college or vocational-technical school is eligible for state reimbursed tuition for up to two years. Each student should enter into a written agreement with the school during the last three years prior to high school graduation and, to be eligible must have:
 - Attended a designated A+ School for three consecutive years prior to high school graduation.
 - Graduated from high school with an accumulative GPA of 2.5 (C+) or higher.
 - Maintained at least a 95% attendance record during four years of high school.
 - Performed 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring for other students.
 - Maintained a record of good citizenship and avoidance of unlawful use of drugs.
 - Some four-year public/private schools offer scholarships to A+ eligible students. Check the A+ web site for a complete list.

Remember you have to fill out the FAFSA form in the spring before you can receive A+ money.

Packaging: Both schools meet 100% of need but do it very differently...

Ice University

- Sticker Price: \$20,000
- EFC: \$2,000
- Grants:
 - National: \$5,000
 - State: \$1,000
 - **School: \$5,000**
- Scholarships:
 - School: \$1,500
 - Private: \$2,000
- **Loans: \$3,000**
(\$12,000/4YRS)
- Work study: \$500

University of Fire

- Sticker Price \$20,000
- EFC: \$2,000
- Grants:
 - National: \$5,000
 - State: \$1,000
 - **School: \$1,000**
- Scholarships:
 - School: \$2,500
 - Private: \$2,000
- **Loans: \$5,500**
(\$22,000/4YRS)
- Work Study: \$1000

REMEMBER: A+ CAN CUT ALL OF YOUR COSTS IN HALF OR BETTER!!!

THE PAYOFF AND THE PAYBACK

Remember: The average college grad makes approx \$1 million more over a lifetime... about \$2,500 more per month

You'll make about 120 payments (10 years)

At the average student loan (\$23,000), this is about \$250 per month

Most sites recommend a salary of about \$40,000 per year to pay this comfortably (Rule of 8%)

Financial Aid Reminders

- Schools with higher tuition are not necessarily more expensive—they could provide the best financial aid.
- In order to receive it you must ASK for it.
- Some financial aid offices will not accept applications until after Feb. 15th, contact all offices for deadlines.
- Make copies of ALL papers—if you apply online—PRINT out each page!!!
- Colleges will differ in the amount offered. You are not obligated to attend a school if your needs are not met. And you can negotiate.
- Financial aid is calculated by:
$$\text{Cost of Attendance} \textit{ minus} \text{ Expected Family Contribution} = \text{Financial Need}$$

COMMUNICATION

Announcements:

- Read them daily!

Email:

- Use one email address for all applications and correspondence and check regularly

School website

- Check for scholarships and other information on the Guidance Page weekly