

***“WE ARE NO LONGER
“GUIDANCE COUNSELORS”
WHO ARE ONLY FOCUSED ON
GRADUATION AND COURSE
SELECTION FOR STUDENTS.
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL
SCHOOL COUNSELORS WHO
FOCUS ON THE ACADEMIC
SUCCESS, COLLEGE AND
CAREER READINESS, AND
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL
DEVELOPMENT OF ALL
STUDENTS.”***

ADAPTED QUOTE FROM MINDY WILLARD

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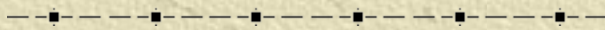


College & Career Readiness

The Journey Begins Today...

“It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are.”

e.e.cummings



Overview of Tonight's Program

- ✦ College visit opportunities
- ✦ Standardized testing (SAT/ACT/ACCUPLACER)
- ✦ College application process
- ✦ Scholarships
- ✦ Financial Aid
- ✦ Next steps for students and parents



College and Campus Visit Opportunities

College Representative Visits to G-CHS

- ✦ Over 25 colleges and universities schedule visits to G-CHS each year to meet with interested students and to share information about their programs and application process, as well as scholarships and financial aid.
- ✦ Students are allowed to select **three** schools with which to meet.
- ✦ Students were provided a link to a Google form in their iBook to select their three visits.

Campus Visit Opportunities

- ✦ Seniors may make **two** official campus visits per semester. We encourage them to take a tour, sit in on a class, and meet with a professor.
- ✦ Students must make an appointment through the Office of Admission.
- ✦ Next, they must inform their counselor of the date of the visit who will approve it based on grades and attendance.
- ✦ Parents must call in to attendance prior to or on the day of the visit.
- ✦ Students must bring back confirmation of their visit to the Attendance Office so they are not marked absent.

Campus Visit Resources

- ✦ Link to a map of all colleges and universities in the State of Indiana:

<http://www.transferin.net/Indiana-College-Map.aspx>

- ✦ List of questions to ask on a college visit (page 2):

<https://drive.google.com/a/gcsc.k12.in.us/file/d/0B6c3CwmSrUqPa2tvZDJE dzFNbVk/view>

- ✦ This information is also located in the iBook we shared with the students.

College Fairs

- ✦ Seniors may also attend local college fairs in order to meet with several colleges and universities at one time. Students may use one of their two visit days to attend the NACAC fair in Indianapolis.
- ✦ NACAC Fair (Indianapolis) – Thurs., Sept. 17
<http://www.nacacnet.org/college-fairs/FallNCF/Pages/Indianapolis.aspx>
- ✦ Education Expo (Greenfield) - Wed., Sept. 23
<http://educatehancockcounty.com/educationexpo>
- ✦ Madison County Fair - Mon., Sept. 28/6:30 – 8:00/@
Anderson University's Kardatzke Wellness Center –
1100 E 5th St Anderson, IN

College Visits To-Do List

Students should:

- Use the Google form and select three colleges to learn more during visits to G-CHS
- Visit a college fair
- Schedule campus visits (October 28 – “Don’t Fear the Future Day”)

Parents should:

- Attend campus visits and college fairs with their child, if possible
- Call in the student’s visit to the Attendance Office
- Help their student begin the process of narrowing down college choices based on likes and dislikes



*Standardized Testing
(SAT/ACT/ACCUPLACER)*

SAT Information

- ✦ The SAT is an aptitude test-students are tested on new information and how they process it.
- ✦ The next test date is Saturday, October 3 and will be given at G-CHS.
- ✦ This is the last test date that will allow seniors to have scores for admission consideration for schools using a November 1 or November 15 application deadline.
- ✦ The registration deadline for the October test is Thursday, September 3 (late registration deadline is September 22).
- ✦ Students register at www.collegeboard.org.

ACT Information

- ✦ The ACT is an achievement test-students will be tested on information they should have seen before.
- ✦ The next ACT with an open registration date is Saturday, October 24. It will not be given at G-CHS.
- ✦ Some college and universities may accept these scores for admission consideration for a November 1 or November 15 application deadline.
- ✦ The registration deadline for the October test is Thursday, September 18 (late registration deadline is October 2).
- ✦ Students register at <http://www.actstudent.org/>.

ACCUPLACER Information

- ✦ The ACCUPLACER exam is a test of college and career readiness prescribed by the Department of Education.
- ✦ Some seniors will be asked to take this test if they do not meet college and career readiness benchmarks determined by the State Board of Education at its September meeting.
- ✦ Based on a student's results, G-CHS can provide remediation opportunities in order to fill in the learning gaps and help the student be ready for college and career placement exams – saving you money.

Testing To-Do List

✦ *Students should:*

- Register for the October SAT by 9/3 - collegeboard.org
- Register for the October ACT actstudent.org
- Research average test scores for first choice colleges and universities
- Register with the NCAA or NAIA if interested in playing sports and submit test scores - http://web3.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp and <http://www.naia.org/>

✦ *Parents should:*

- Ask if your child has registered for the SAT and/or ACT (have a credit or debit card ready!)
- Assist your child as needed, but allow him or her to do this independently
- Begin setting realistic expectations about admission opportunities
- Help your child find a secure way to store and maintain needed information



The College Application Process

College Applications

- ✦ Most applications are now submitted on-line to the college or university directly or through a service called The Common Application
<http://www.commonapp.org/>.
- ✦ Students may apply for Early Admission, Early Decision, or Regular Admission.
- ✦ Most Early Admission deadlines fall between November 1 and December 1 – check each college or university website to confirm the date for each school on your child’s list and put it in a calendar.
- ✦ Students are normally notified of an early admission decision by the end of December.

College Applications & Transcripts

- ✦ Students request a transcript by creating a Parchment account and selecting the colleges or universities to which they want a transcript submitted. Parchment is the preferred electronic transcript vendor selected by the State of Indiana for students, high schools, and colleges and universities. Transcripts sent during a student's senior year are free – www.parchment.com
- ✦ The Common Application also requires an electronic transcript which is sent directly from the counselor to The Common Application website.
- ✦ Some colleges and universities contract with SendU which works the same way.

Tips for College Applications

- ✦ Students should start early and be prepared to have all applications submitted by the end of Fall Break.
- ✦ It is never too soon to begin thinking about “The Admission Essay.” Students need to set themselves apart from other applicants by discussing what makes them unique or to describe unusual experiences that have led them to where they are today.
- ✦ Some colleges or universities require a letter of recommendation from a teacher or mentor. Students should be prepared to ask for those early and from teachers or mentors who really know and respect your child.

College Application To-Do List

★ Students should:

- Research admission deadlines and put them in a calendar
- Begin thinking about the application essay
- Put together a resume for their own use, as well as for their recommenders
- Ask their recommenders for letters well before the application deadline
- Complete all applications by the end of Fall Break

★ Parents should:

- Continue to ask about and oversee the application process, but allow the student to do this independently
- Gently give reminders about upcoming deadlines, if necessary
- Help brainstorm essay ideas, as well as strong recommenders
- Proofread essays and your child's resume



Scholarships and Financial Aid

Scholarships and Financial Aid

- ✦ Most colleges and universities automatically review admitted students for academic and talent scholarships awarded by that institution. These types of awards are called merit-based awards and are determined by a student's grades, GPA, class rank, and test scores (SAT/ACT) or a specific talent (music, theater, dance, athletics).
- ✦ Students will also typically be notified by the college or university if they are eligible to apply for departmental or leadership-type scholarships.
- ✦ Students should also apply for local scholarships.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

- ✦ The Counseling Office posts scholarship opportunities on its website as soon as they receive them -
http://gchs.gcsc.k12.in.us/?page_id=3751
- ✦ Students should also apply for scholarships through the Hancock County Community Foundation scholarship program -
<http://givehcgrowhc.org/scholarships/how-to-apply>
- ✦ Parents and students and can research additional scholarship opportunities through their places of work, churches, community organizations, as well as through reputable search engines. You should NEVER pay for a scholarship search program, however.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

- ✦ Some students qualify for the Twenty-first Century Scholars program and will work throughout the year to meet its requirements – <http://www.in.gov/21stcenturyscholars/>
- ✦ The scholarship and financial aid processes last from December to May so have patience, ask questions, and be ready to make adjustments to your plan as you get more information from your child's college and university choices.

Financial Aid

- ✦ Students and parents may begin filing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) on January 1, 2016. It must be filed every year for as long as the student is in school. The deadline for priority consideration is March 10, but some colleges may ask that it be filed by March 1 - <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
- ✦ G-CHS is hosting a Financial Aid Night on January 13 at 7:00 PM to share basic information, procedures, and timelines.
- ✦ G-CHS will also host a FAFSA day in February. Families may receive individual help on that day.

Scholarship/Financial Aid To-Do List

✦ *Students should:*

- Apply for any and all scholarships with complete applications
- Request required materials from G-CHS (transcripts, recommendation letters) at least one week prior to the application deadline
- Use a Net Price Calculator with parents to see realistic costs
- Remember your FAFSA ID and PIN – FOREVER!

✦ *Parents should:*

- Continue to ask about and oversee the process, but allow your child to do this independently
- Gently give reminders about upcoming deadlines
- Discuss your family's college budget with your child
- Assist with the FAFSA process and with college costs as able.
- Remember your FAFSA ID and PIN



Next Steps for Parents and Students

Important Dates

- ✦ September – Counselors meet with students
- ✦ September 12 – ACT @ G-CHS
- ✦ October 3 – SAT @ G-CHS
- ✦ October 24 – ACT not at G-CHS
- ✦ October 28 – Don't Fear the Future Day (schedule a college visit for this day)
- ✦ November 2 & 5 – Parent Teacher Conferences
- ✦ January 13 – Financial Aid Night @ G-CHS
- ✦ February – FAFSA Day at G-CHS
- ✦ June 3 – Commencement Practice and Senior Awards*
- ✦ June 4 – Commencement*

**Dates could change depending on snow days*

Other Information

- ✦ Students earning dual-credit from IU, Ivy Tech, or Purdue need to request a final transcript from that college's or university's Registrar's Office once they have selected a school to attend.
- ✦ Final (8th semester) transcripts from G-CHS will be sent in June to the college or university your child has chosen and shared with us. If your child changes his or her mind after that time, please contact the Counseling Office so we can submit one to the new school.

Military and Workplace Opportunities

- ✦ Military recruiters visit G-CHS monthly to talk to students who may be interested in pursuing a career in the armed forces.
- ✦ The counselors provide recruiters with requested information when a student signs a commitment.
- ✦ G-CHS will provide ASVAB testing in October.
- ✦ Counselors also receive information about apprenticeship and employment opportunities. Students interested in pursuing one of those options should read through the announcements regularly and let their counselor know their plans. They should also attend the Education Expo.

Next Steps ...

✦ *Students should:*

- Pay the enrollment deposit by May 1
- Notify all other schools of his or her college choice by May 1
- Schedule an orientation day
- Prepare a budget for college and work over the summer to save money
- Memorize his or her social security number

✦ *Parents should:*

- Set-up a checking account in your child's name and teach him or her money management skills
- Make sure he or she knows how to do laundry
- Step back and allow your child some freedom and provide opportunities for practicing decision-making skills
- Celebrate your child's accomplishments



Questions?