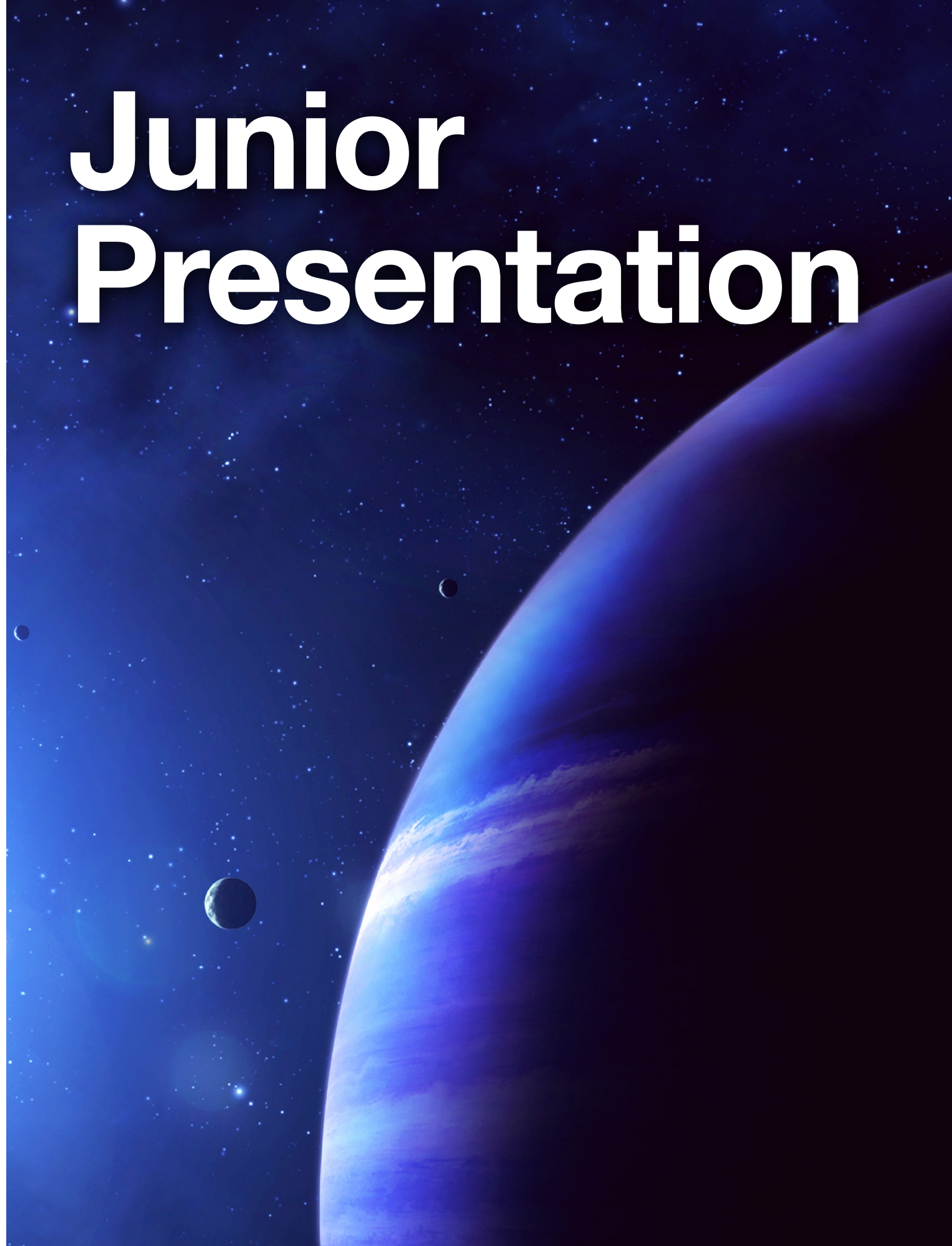


Junior Presentation



Action Plan

The following is a listing of suggested activities designed to help you get ready for college throughout your junior and senior years of high school.

Junior Year Action Plan

Fall

Take the PSAT/NMSQT

- At school, sign up early to take the PSAT/NMSQT® in October. Get [PSAT/NMSQT tips and a free practice test](#).

Explore Colleges

- Make a list majors you may want to study, and programs/activities that you value in a school.
- Use College Search to find a school with the right characteristics.

Talk to your school counselor about your plans and attend College Night and Financial Aid night at G-C. Use financial aid calculators to estimate your aid eligibility and college costs.

- Start visiting colleges/universities: large, small, public, and private. Get a feel for what works for you. Develop a list of 5-10 potential schools.
- Meet college representatives when they visit G-CHS.

Winter

Get Ready for the SAT

- [Visit the SAT Preparation Center](#) to take a free full-length official practice test and get a score and skills report. Be sure to sign up for [The Official SAT Question of the Day](#) for daily practice.
- Plan Your Testing Schedule - Consider taking the January SAT at G-C (register in December), and plan for Spring SAT or **ACT**.

- See the **SAT schedule for test dates and register online for the SAT**.

Spring

Prepare for AP Exams

- Do well on AP Exams and receive credit or placement at most colleges. Get **AP Exam Preparation**.

Plan Ahead for the Summer & Senior Year

- Take a college visit day to at least one school that interests you.
- Review your senior year class schedule with your counselor. Challenge yourself with honors and AP classes and stick with sequences you've begun.
- Plan summer activities early. Enrich yourself by volunteering, getting an interesting job or internship, or signing up for special summer learning programs.

Summer

Keep Your Momentum Up This Summer

Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, schedule interviews with admissions counselors.

Check important dates; some universities have early dates or rolling admissions.

Senior Year Action Plan

College applications can seem overwhelming at first glance. What needs to be done, and when? Use this plan to learn more about the college application process.

Summer Before Senior Year

- Visit colleges that interest you. Call ahead for the campus tour schedule.
- Finalize your list of colleges. Be sure your list includes "safe" schools, as well as "reach" and "realistic" schools. Request college applications and informational packets or find them online. Organize materials into separate files by college.
- Keep a calendar of all college admission deadlines.
- If you took AP® Exams in May, you will receive your AP Grade Reports in July.
- Register early for fall **SAT/ACT** tests.

August/September

- Meet college representatives when they visit G-CHS.
- Your counselor will play a big role in helping you get into college, so keep him/her informed. You will have an Individual

Senior meeting with your Counselor to discuss college applications, scholarships, and goals.

- Senior Parent Night at G-CHS on August 31st.
- Get started on applications if you plan to apply through an Early Decision or Early Action program. Deadlines for early applications tend to fall in October or November.
- Start working on college essays. Write essays that focus on your experiences and make you stand out from the crowd.
- Update your resume with your senior year activities. Your resume will help you complete your applications and essays.
- Check deadline for October and November SAT
- ACT offered at G-CHS on Sept 10.
- Register with [NCAA/NAIA](#) Clearinghouse for College Athletics

October

- File FAFSA
- Follow procedures on recommendation letters. Each school may require something different. Give them plenty of time to

meet your deadlines and make sure to provide them instructions for how to submit the letter.

- Work hard at completing your college essays. Proofread them rigorously for mistakes.
- Take SAT tests. Make sure your scores are sent to each of your colleges.
- SAT offered at G-CHS 10/1
- If you are applying under an Early Decision or Early Action program, be sure to submit all forms as soon as possible.
- Investigate any scholarship possibilities in your community, school or college, and area of study. Scholarships sent to G-CHS are available at <http://gchs.gcsc.k12.in.us> under the “Guidance” tab.

November

- Submit early decision and early action applications on time.
- Follow up with your teachers to ensure that letters of recommendation are sent on time to meet your deadline
- Mail applications as early as possible for colleges with rolling deadlines (admission decisions are made as applications are received).

- Take SAT tests. Make sure your scores are sent to each one of your colleges.

December

- Try to wrap up college applications before winter break. Make copies of each application before you send it.
- Take SAT tests. Make sure your scores are sent to each one of your colleges.
- Early Decision and Early Application responses arrive this month.

January

- Early Decision and Early Application responses arrive this month.
- Some colleges include your first-semester grades as part of your application folder. This is called the mid-year grade report.
- SAT offered at G-CHS on Jan 21.

February

- Contact your colleges and confirm that all necessary application materials have been received.

- Don't get senioritis! Colleges want to see strong second semester grades.

March

- Some admissions decisions arrive this month. Read everything you receive carefully, as some of it may require action on your part.

April

- Most admissions decisions and financial aid award letters arrive this month. Read everything you receive carefully, as some of it may require action on your part.
- Make a final decision **before May 1** (the enrollment deadline for most schools).
- Notify each school that you will not be attending in writing so that your spot can be freed up for another student.
- On the waiting list? Contact the admissions office and let them know of your continued interest in the college and update them on your spring semester.
- Notify the college you will be attending. A FINAL transcript may need to be sent. You must complete this request through Parchment

May

- AP Exams are administered. Make sure your AP Grade Report is sent to your chosen college or university.
- Study hard for final exams. Most admission offers are contingent on your final grades.
- Thank your counselor, teachers, coaches, and anyone else who wrote you recommendations or otherwise helped with your college applications.

June

- Have your counselor send your final transcript to your college.
- If you plan on competing in college sports, request your final transcript to the NAIA/[NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse](#) through Parchment.

Summer

- Request your dual credit transcripts be sent to your receiving school from the school you earned the credits.
- Finalize your housing plans.
- Shop for items you will need in college.
- Make sure to sign up for first-year orientation.
- Plan your first-semester courses with an eye toward eventually selecting your college major.

Chapter 2

College Visits

Juniors may take 2 college visits per semester.

Section 1

College visitation days are limited to juniors and seniors. All visits should be pre-arranged by **calling the university admission office** well in advance. Parents are strongly encouraged to accompany their student on these visits. A visit should include information from the college admission office, financial aid office, or individualized curriculum departments. Students are responsible for **arranging an appointment** at the university of his/her choice.

College Days are a privilege; therefore, permission is granted by the student's school counselor. The student should inform his/her counselor of the date and time of the visitation. Discipline, academic, and attendance records will be reviewed before a visitation will be granted.

The student's parent/guardian should **call in to the attendance** office at least one day prior to initially clear the visit. A **written statement** from the university official (on university stationary) should be presented to the attendance office the following school day to excuse the absence.

On-Campus Visit Summary

- Two visits per semester
- Schedule ahead with the Admissions Office
- Get approval from School Counselor
- Return documentation from the Admissions Office to Attendance

For a list of questions to ask on a college visit, [click here](#).

For a map of Indiana Colleges and Universities, [click here](#).

In-School Visits

During first semester, colleges and universities send representatives to meet with G-C students. You have the opportunity to meet with **up to 3** of these reps. Meetings will take place at 3pm on school days, and last about 25 minutes. [You must complete this form in order to attend these meetings.](#)



Chapter 3

College Fairs

As a Junior you can attend College Fairs as a
“College Visit Day.” Read on for dates and times.

Education Expo - Hancock Wellness Center - 9/27/16

National College Fair - Indianapolis Convention Center 9/16/16

Chapter 4

College Costs

Don't Get "Sticker Shock"



College Costs

Things To Consider

1. Remember to factor in both tuition and room and board fees.
2. Private schools often cost more, but offer scholarships/grants/aid to offer competitive rates.
3. Some out-of-state universities offer “tuition reciprocity” (in-state tuition to out-of-state residents).
4. Select a college on “fit” rather than cost.
5. Wait for final financial aid packages before making decision.

Average Indiana College Admissions Examples

Public

IUPUI-Tuition \$8,756 + Room \$8,112 = \$16,868/yr.

Purdue-Tuition \$9,992 + Room \$10,300 = \$20,292/yr.

ISU - Tuition \$8,256 + Room \$8,500 = \$16,756/yr.

Private

Indiana Wesleyan - Tuition \$23,628 + Room \$7,560 = \$31,188/yr.

Butler - Tuition \$34,750 + Room \$11,620 = \$46,370/yr.

Notre Dame - Tuition \$44,605 + Room \$12,512 = \$57,117/yr.

*For a full list of Indiana Colleges and Costs, including Avg. admitted students GPA, ACT/SAT scores, etc., [click here](#).

Chapter 5

Standardized Tests

SAT/ACT - Know before you test!



SAT vs. ACT

SAT (Click To Register)

1. Two scores - Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing, and Math.
2. Each Section scored out of 800.
3. Indiana Schools admitted students average is around 1000-1100 on CR + Math.
4. Optional Essay.

ACT (Click To Register)

1. Subject Area Tests - English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning.
2. Plus Writing includes 30 minute writing section.
3. Each Section scored out of 36.
4. Section scores averaged to give a Composite out of 36.

5. Indiana Schools admitted students Composite average is around 24.

What's the Difference?

- SAT - Mandatory writing, ACT optional writing
- SAT - Aptitude (what are you capable of?)
- ACT - Achievement (what do you know?)
- SAT - G-C School Code 151350. Test Center: 15315
- ACT - G-C School Code 151350 Test Center: 166140

What's the Same?

- Approximately same cost.
- Total test length about the same.
- Most colleges will Super-score - Take student's best result on each section.
- No deduction for guessing!

Military Directory

By law, G-C is required to give directory information of all juniors and seniors to all branches of the United States Armed Forces should they ask for it.

This directory information includes the student's name, address, phone number and grade.

If you DO NOT want to be included you must **OPT-OUT** by using [this form](#).

Scholarships & Financial Aid

How to Pay for College!

Type to enter text

[Click here for Indiana College Dollars - a listing of colleges and available scholarships.](#)

Scholarships

1. Where can I find scholarships?

- [G-CHS Guidance website](#)
- Scholarship search engines
([FastWeb](#), [School Soup](#), etc.)
- [Hancock County Community Foundation](#)
(scholarship book available in December)
- Organizations in which you or your parents are involved
(church, Elks, 4-H, scouts, etc.)

2. How do I get my transcript for a scholarship?

Most scholarships require an OFFICIAL transcript, which must come directly from G-CHS. Please follow these directions:

- a. Turn in the COMPLETED scholarship application to the Counseling Office one week before it is due to the organization.
- b. We will attach an OFFICIAL transcript and mail on your behalf.
- c. Students will NOT be given an official transcript. These must be sent directly from our office to the organization.

(Please do not use Parchment for scholarships.)

3. Scholarship due dates

- Please submit scholarship applications earlier than the due date given by the organization. This allows the Counseling Office time to process the transcript and submit your application.
- Be mindful of school breaks, weekends, and holidays when completing scholarship applications.
- Scholarships and transcript requests submitted too closely to the due date cannot be guaranteed to be received by the organization's due date.

4. Tips

- Type or use blue or black ink (no pencil!)
- Proofread! Proofread! Proofread!
- Be sure your application contains all components. Many applications are disregarded because they are incomplete.
- Create a resume outlining your accomplishments, clubs, extracurricular activities, etc. Use this for each application.
- Apply for MORE than just HCCF scholarships. There are MANY others out there.
- Write thank-you notes for those who have written letters of recommendation and for scholarships you receive.

Financial Aid Process

This brief guide serves as a quick overview of the various types of financial aid programs available. We will host a financial aid night on AUGUST 31st to cover this more in detail.

Types of Financial Aid

Financial aid is divided into the two following major areas: need-based and merit-based.

Need-Based

This is aid determined by the family's financial status in relation to the cost of the institution. This is determined by the filing of the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) between October and March 1 of the SENIOR year. Grant aid (gift), loan aid, and work study aid are determined through this "blanket" application for both state AND federal sources.

Merit-Based

This aid is determined by various combinations of the following: class rank, GPA, SAT/ACT scores, recommendations, and school/community activities.

Students should know that many academic scholarships granted through the colleges and universities are in the form of tuition remission, where the tuition is automatically reduced off the actual bill. Therefore, it is very important that students make sure they file the university financial aid form along with admissions and housing forms.

In most cases, students should file both the FAFSA and university financial forms. These forms must be on file for any consideration for any type of aid.

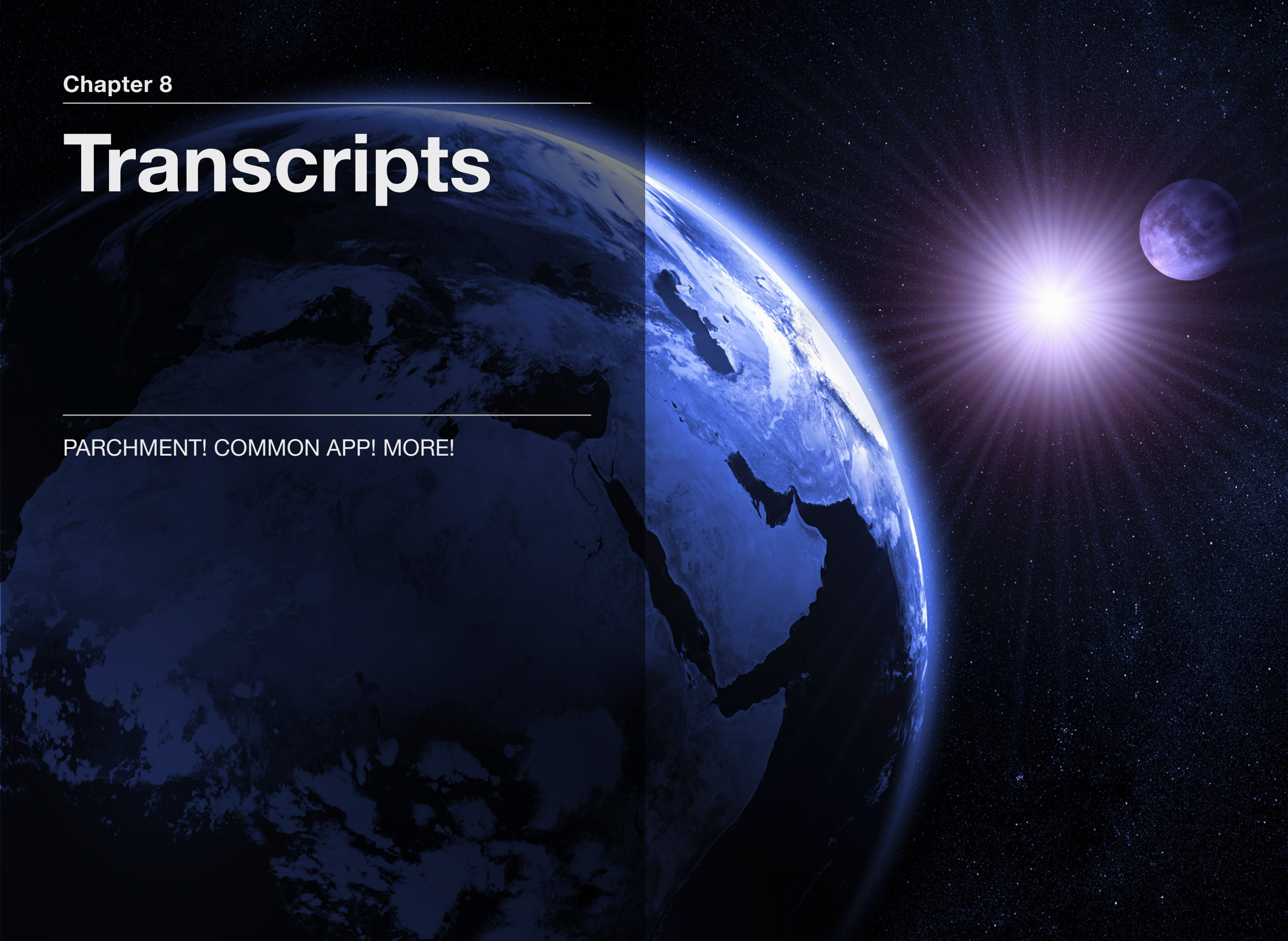
Other Types of Aid

Students should also investigate other sources not previously mentioned such as labor unions, military, churches, employers, of parents.

Chapter 8

Transcripts

PARCHMENT! COMMON APP! MORE!



Transcripts

Parchment

- G-CHS now uses an electronic transcript.
- Parchment is the request/delivery system we use to distribute transcripts to colleges.
- To request a transcript, you must create an account on www.parchment.com

• Common APP

- Some schools require the use of the Common APP (Purdue and IU, most notably)
- Create an account on www.commonapp.org
- Select your counselor and a teacher as “recommender”
- Alert counselor and inform teacher of what will be required.

• General Transcript Notes

- Request a self-view to ensure that your e-transcript is correct, and to ensure that you are familiar with your GPA, class rank, credits earned.
- Request a transcript be sent to each school to which you apply.
- Note any deadlines for your colleges, and ensure that you have requested at least one week in advance.

Chapter 9

Hoosier Boys' and Girls' State



Hoosier Boys' State & Girls' State



Details

- Each year, the American Legion sponsors Boys' State and Girls' State to give high school students going into their senior year exposure to the rights and responsibilities of a citizen of the United States of America.
- Students participating in this program will operate the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches of a mock state government.
- Each program is run on a college campus for one week and expenses are paid by the American Legion.
- To apply to be one of G-C's representatives -- [click here](#).

Important Dates



Important Dates

Aug 31: Junior/Senior Parent College Night

Sept 10: ACT @ G-C

Oct 1: SAT @ G-C

Oct 19: “Don’t Fear the Future” - You must take PSAT or ASVAB.

Dec 20, 21 - 1st Semester Finals

Jan 21: SAT @ G-C

Apr 8: ACT @ G-C

May 1 - May 12 - AP tests

May 6: SAT @ G-C

May 10: Underclass Awards

May 24 - 26: 2nd Semester Finals



OR



Contacts

School Counselors

A-E: Horsman thorsman@gcsc.k12.in.us

F-L: Foster sfoster@gcsc.k12.in.us

M-Sq: Knecht sknecht@gcsc.k12.in.us

St-Z: Kile kkile@gcsc.k12.in.us

For Scholarships and Transcript Requests:

Registrar: Mrs. Dye mdye@gcsc.k12.in.us

School Counselor Secretary: Mrs. Jones
jajones@gcsc.k12.in.us