
First Edition

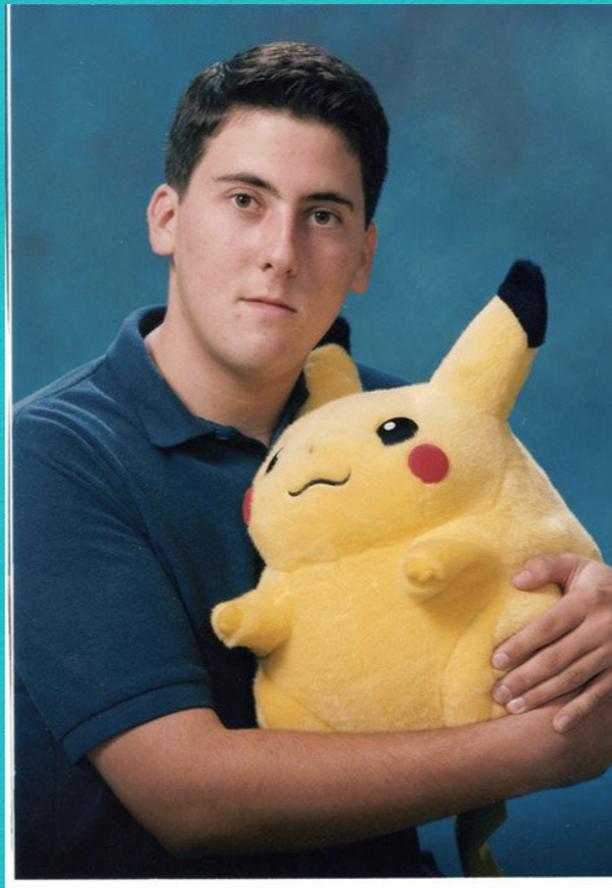
Senior Presentation



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Getting Ready to Go

Senior Presentation

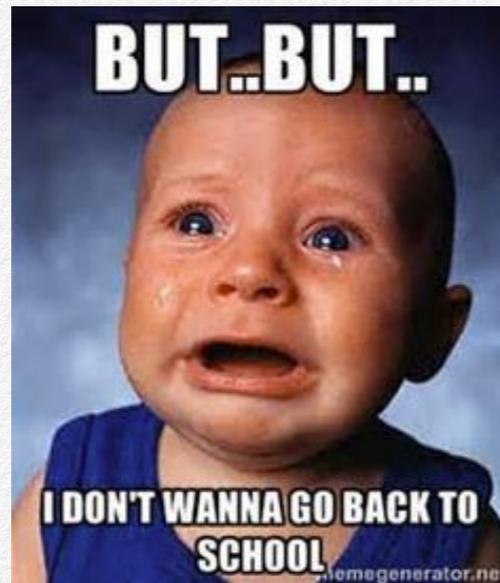


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Action Plan: High School Seniors

Save the Date for College



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

Summer Before Senior Year

- Visit colleges that interest you. Call ahead for the campus tour schedule. Schedule an on-campus interview with an admissions representative.
- 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 college calendar of all admission deadlines.
- If you plan on competing in college sports and want to be eligible to be recruited by colleges, you must register with the [NAIA/NCAA](#) Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse.
- 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 or her informed. You will have an individual senior meeting with your counselor to discuss college applications, scholarships, and goals.
- Get started on your 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 your 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. Give to your counselor and teachers to help with letters of recommendation.
- Check deadline for October and November SAT
- [ACT](#) offered at G-CHS on 9/10
- Register with [NCAA/NAIA](#) Clearinghouse for College Athletics
- Senior Parent Night at G-CHS Aug 31st at 7pm in auditorium.

October

- File [FAFSA](#)
- Ask your counselor, teachers, and coaches or employers for letters of recommendation. Give them plenty of time to meet your deadlines and make sure to provide them with links or stamped and addressed envelopes.
- 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 on Oct 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
- Submit 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.
- Some Early Decision and Early Application responses arrive this month.

January

- Some 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. If your school requires one, request 7th semester transcripts through Parchment.
- SAT offered at G-CHS on January 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.
- Make a final decision, and submit the enrollment form and payment to the school you select before May 1 (the enrollment deadline for most schools).
- Notify each of the schools to which you were accepted 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 grades and activities.

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- 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 grades and activities.
 - Notify the counselor of the college you will be attending. A FINAL transcript will need to be sent. Use Parchment to finalize this request.

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

- Request your final transcript be sent to your college choice through Parchment.
- If you plan on competing in Division I or Division II college sports, have your counselor send your final transcript to the [NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearing-house](#).

Summer

- Request Transcripts for your dual credit courses through the university 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.

This calendar is only a general guide and will not apply to all colleges. Consult application materials, admission offices, and institution websites for the specific requirements and deadlines for each of your colleges.

[Click here for a College Guide courtesy of Indianapolis Monthly](#)

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

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" - College Visit or ASVAB.

Dec 20, 21 - 1st Semester Finals

Jan 21: SAT @ G-C

Apr 8: ACT @ G-C

May 1 - May 12 - AP tests

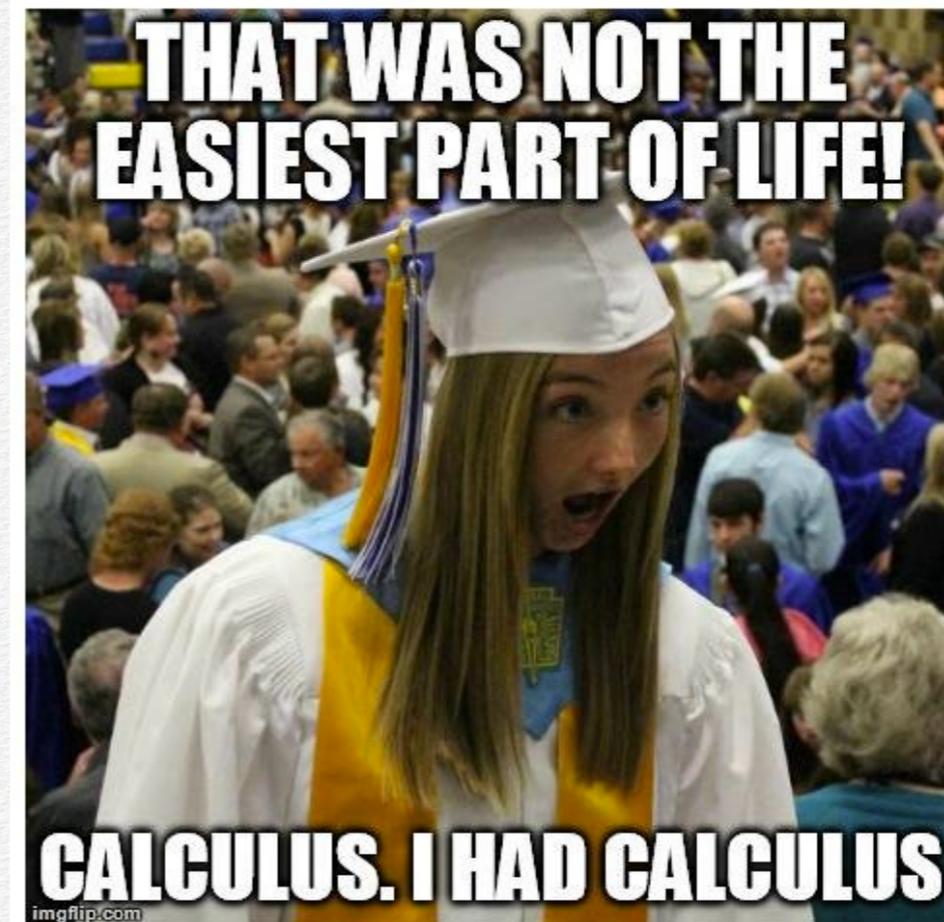
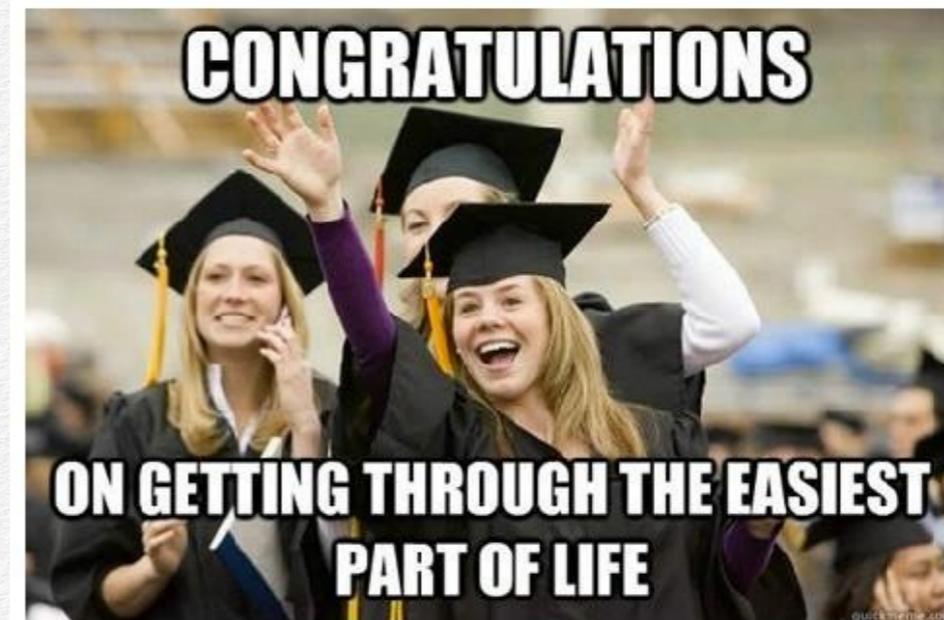
May 6: SAT @ G-C

May 10: Underclass Awards

May 24 - 26: 2nd Semester Finals

June 2: Senior Awards Night

June 3: Commencement



College Visits

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 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 \(page 2\)](#).

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 to attend these meetings. Click Here.](#)

College Fairs

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

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

College Costs

-Don't get "Sticker Shock"

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](#).

*For a listing of Indiana Colleges and scholarship opportunities, [click here](#).

Standardized Tests

ACT/SAT

[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 penalty 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](#).



image taken from adler.edu

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.

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 due to incompleteness.
- Create a resume outlining your accomplishments, clubs, extracurricular activities, etc. Use this for each application rather than recreating it each time.
- 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.

FAFSA - New Info.

Understanding the Shift to Prior-Prior Year and Earlier FAFSA Filing

Beginning Oct. 1, 2016, the 2017–2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be available to students to apply for federal financial aid.

There are two significant changes to the 2017-18 FAFSA filing process: 1. The FAFSA will be available earlier — in October rather than in January — affecting financial aid processing timelines and potentially affecting admission calendars.

2. Students and families will report income information from two years prior to the academic year (“prior-prior year”) instead of the previous year.

These changes hold great promise for improving the college-going process for students:

- Students will be able to apply for financial aid earlier.
- More students and parents will be able to directly import their income data from the IRS to the FAFSA using the Data Retrieval Tool (DRT), potentially producing more accurate Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculations and simplifying the verification process.
- Closer alignment with the admission cycle may enable campuses to communicate earlier about net price and affordability, which may help students and families make more informed decisions.

Transcripts

Parchment

- G-CHS 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, 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.

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 Transcripts and Scholarship Applications:

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

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

