

VOORHEES GUIDANCE

Senior Newsletter

2016-2017

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Congratulations! It's your senior year.

You made it! The year ahead is going to be a busy one. You have been studying and preparing for this year since Kindergarten. Now, it's time to prepare and plan for the next chapter in your life.

Graduation Credits— All students should know the credits they need to graduate. If you are in doubt, please check with your counselor.

Attend College/Career Fairs—Voorhees will be hosting two college fairs. College representatives will be available to talk with you. Two and four year colleges, technical and trade schools and military will be represented.

Career/College Application Process— At the beginning of the year, the counselors will be sending passes to every senior to come and discuss their post high school plans. It is necessary for you to attend these meetings so we can help provide you with direction with your post-secondary plans. If you do not wish to wait for us to call you in, please make an appointment on your own.

*We will be coming into your English classes in mid September to help you create your Common Application account.

***Visit the Guidance Website for scholarship opportunities— stop by and see Ms. Gorton in the athletic office if you have questions!**

College Applications, Test Scores and Deadlines

(your responsibility!)

- *Challenge yourself academically
- *Use Naviance to help determine safety, target and reach schools.
- *Complete Questionnaire Packet.
- *Letters of Recommendation (2)
- *Schedule College Visits
- *Attend College Night/Financial Aid presentations at Voorhees.
- *Complete a transcript request form for each school you apply to.
- *Visit the guidance website!

Before and during this college application process, you should....

- 1. Complete all student portions of the application before the deadline** (refer to the school's website or Common App).
- 2. Send your scores** directly from Collegeboard and/or ACT to the college. You may also have your scores sent when you take the SAT/ACT test: 4 scores included in the cost of each test.
- 3. Letters of Recommendation**– It is important to ask your teacher in person first and then send a request to them via Naviance. Be sure to let your teacher know about application deadlines. Please allow teachers and counselors sufficient time to write letters, make them aware of application deadlines and thank them for their time and effort. A great deal of time goes into writing these letters. They are often a deciding factor for college admission .
- 4. Complete a transcript request form for each school you are applying to.** During the fall guidance counselors are inundated with college applications. The process can be delayed for more than a week. It is recommended that your transcript request(s) be in the hands of your counselor at least 10 school days before any deadlines. **A parent signature is required on each transcript request form, unless you are 18 years of age, in which case you may sign your own.
5. Also keep in mind that **your admittance to a college is dependent upon your final transcript.** Schools who have offered you admittance may retract their offer if your final transcript shows a drastic decrease in performance. It is important that you work hard in your classes through final exams.

ATTENDANCE:

Please keep a close eye on your attendance. Each year, we have to hold our breath to see if some seniors will be able to participate in graduation because of lost credits. Remember that more than **6 unexcused absences in a semester course or more than 12 unexcused absences in a full-year course** will result in a loss of credit which will impact your GPA.

Seniors who have lost credit in a course from first semester or a full year course may participate in **the Spring Credit Restoration Program. See your guidance counselor for information.**

If credit is lost in a class required for graduation, the student **will not graduate** until credit restoration is completed. Please see your counselor if you have any questions about your attendance.

College Visits are considered excused absences. Be sure to complete form and bring back proper documentation from the college (otherwise, the absence will not be excused). The form must be completed 3 days prior to your college visit.

National Honor Society—Students interested in pursuing the National Honor Society must have a GPA of 3.5 and documentation of 100 hours of community service hours/100 hours of extra curricular/50 hours of leadership since their freshman year. There may be overlap in all three areas. Check out their webpage on the school website.

Financial Aid—Students may need to file 2 primary financial aid forms:

1. The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** - is required for all students applying for Federal and State Aid. The FAFSA can be filled out after October 1, 2016 using the 2015 tax return. You are encouraged to file the FAFSA online.
2. Some colleges/universities may require the **CSS Financial Aid Profile**. Contact the college to determine if the Profile is required.
3. Attend the **FINANCIAL AID NIGHT on November 17th at 7:00pm**.

Federal Student Aid: Find the Information You Need Online

	Topic	Resource
FAFSA	Fill out the FAFSA	www.fafsa.gov
	Basic FAFSA Info: what is it and how do you fill it out	StudentAid.gov/fafsa StudentAid.gov/complete
	Dependency status for FAFSA purposes	StudentAid.gov/fafsa/filling-out/dependency
	How aid is calculated (including link to detailed EFC info)	StudentAid.gov/how-calculated
Types of Aid/ Getting Aid	Types of financial aid	StudentAid.gov/types
	Who can get federal student aid	StudentAid.gov/eligibility
	Pell Lifetime Eligibility Used	StudentAid.gov/pell-limit
	Finding and applying for scholarships	StudentAid.gov/scholarships
	Loan interest rates and fees	StudentAid.gov/interest
	Avoiding financial aid scams	StudentAid.gov/scams
Repaying Loans	Loan repayment	StudentAid.gov/repay
	Income-Based Repayment	StudentAid.gov/ibr
	Pay As You Earn	StudentAid.gov/PayAsYouEarn
	Public Service Loan Forgiveness	StudentAid.gov/publicservice
	Loan forgiveness in general	StudentAid.gov/forgiveness
	Loan forgiveness for teachers	StudentAid.gov/teach-forgive
College Prep	College Preparation Checklist: checklists for academic and financial preparation, for elementary school through adult students	StudentAid.gov/checklist
	Why go to college (education and pay/unemployment rates)	StudentAid.gov/whycollege
	Middle school preparation	StudentAid.gov/early
Special Audiences	Info for parents (tax benefits, support your child, college costs)	StudentAid.gov/parent
	Graduate school funding	StudentAid.gov/grad
	Financial aid for adult students	StudentAid.gov/resources#adult-students
	Aid for military families	StudentAid.gov/military
	Going to college in another country	StudentAid.gov/International
Social Media	@FAFSA Twitter feed	www.Twitter.com/FAFSA
	Federal Student Aid YouTube channel	www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid
	Federal Student Aid Facebook page	www.Facebook.com/FederalStudentAid

If you plan to take the SAT or ACT again, please take note of the following list of dates. Students should register at www.collegeboard.com (SAT) or www.actstudent.org. Seniors are strongly encouraged to take the October test. Some colleges require SAT II subject tests. Please check your college materials, the college's website or call the college admissions office to determine if you will need to sign up for the SAT II testing. See your counselor if you have questions.

SAT DATES

Test Dates	October 1	November 5	December 3	January 21	March 11	May 6	June 3
Registration Deadlines	Sept 1	Oct 7	Nov 3	Dec 21	Feb 10	April 7	May 9

ACT DATES

Test Dates	September 10	October 22 *at VHS	December 10	February 11	April 8 *at VHS	June 10	
Registration Deadlines	August 5	September 16	November 4	January 13	March 3	May 5	

Important Dates:

August 25—1st day of school
 August 31—Meet the Teachers' Night 7:00pm-9:00pm
 September 2—Last day for first semester schedule changes
 September 5—Labor Day—**School Closed**
 September 14—Rosh Hashanah—**School Closed**
 September 17—Fall College Night—VHS Auditorium @ 7:00pm
 September 23—Yom Kippur—**School Closed**
 September 28—North Hunterdon College Fair @ 6:00pm (Gym)
 September 29—Mini-College Fair #1 (during school day)
 October 3—Rosh Hashanah—**School Closed**
 October 6—ASVAB test at VHS for select juniors/seniors
 October 10—Full day In-service for staff (students off)
 October 12—Yom Kippur—**School Closed**
 October 22—**ACT test at Voorhees HS**
 October 27—Mini- College Fair #2 (7:00pm-8:30pm)
 November 1—MP 1 ends
 November 2—MP 2 begins
 November 3—Military Day
 November 10/11—NJEA Convention Days— College Visits! - **School Closed**
 November 17—Financial Aid Night—VHS Auditorium @ 7:00 pm
 November 23 (half day) - 27(inclusive) Thanksgiving Recess—**School Closed**
 December 5—Local Scholarship Applications available online
 December 23 thru January 1—Winter Recess—**School Closed**
 January 16— Martin Luther King Jr. Day—**School Closed**
 January 20—end of MP 2
 January 23—start of MP 3 (2nd semester)
 January 27— Last day for second semester schedule changes
 February 1—****Local Scholarships Applications due**
 February 3—Senior warning letters (for seniors who are in jeopardy of not graduating)
 February 7—Military visits (Senior Mall area)
 February 17 (half day)—20 (inclusive) Presidents' Day—**School Closed**
 March 31— 3rd MP ends
 April 3—4th MP begins
 April 14-21—Spring Recess—**School Closed**
 May 1-12 AP testing
 May 29—Memorial Day—**School Closed**
 June 15—end of MP 4/GRADUATION!

Have a wonderful year!