



RIVER DELL

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

GUIDE LINES

RDHS Counseling Dept. Newsletter

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023



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Highlights

Our Counselors:

- ◆ Met w/seniors individually to review their college applications and discuss their college plans.
- ◆ Met w/freshmen in small groups to discuss important information about the high school & complete an activity in Naviance.
- ◆ Met w/sophomores during lunchtime to talk about the HOBY program.
- ◆ Met w/sophomores in small groups to begin career exploration through Naviance.

Attention Students/Parents

Junior Post Secondary Planning Meeting

The Counseling Department will be hosting an important virtual evening program for all juniors & their parents on **Thursday, January 5th, 2023** starting at 7:00 PM. An access link will be provided. This planning meeting will serve as our “kick-off” to the college planning process. The counselors will be providing important information regarding college planning and post secondary options. Other topics being discussed regarding senior year:

- ◆ Senior programs, including Advanced Placement & Syracuse University Project Advance courses
- ◆ Senior Internships & School to Work programs

Open House for Class of 2027

On **Thursday, December 1st** from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, River Dell HS will be hosting an Open House for the Class of 2027. The evening will be informal and an opportunity for families to meet the building administration and receive a tour of the school from current RDHS students. Tours will last approximately 25 minutes. Tours will originate from the main entrance off the oval where you will be greeted by a tour guide who will show you what it is like to be a Hawk. Families may arrive anytime between 6 and 8 pm for their tours. The building administrators will be on hand throughout the night to answer any questions you may have. We ask that all students attending this event be accompanied a parent/guardian or responsible adult. Please come and visit with us.

Bergen Community College Partnership Program

River Dell has partnered with Bergen Community College to offer a comprehensive Dual Enrollment program for RDHS students to earn college credit by taking the courses they would already enroll in at RD. For further information, please visit the Guidance section on the school’s website under Dual Enrollment Program.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs., Dec. 1st, 6:00 PM
Open House for Class of 2027

Sat., Dec. 3rd,
SAT Test
(not offered at RDHS)

Sat., Dec. 10th
ACT Test
(not offered at RDHS)

Weds., Dec. 23rd
One session day

Dec. 26th thru Jan. 2nd
Holiday Recess

Thurs., Jan. 5th, 7:00 PM
Jr. Post Secondary Planning Mtg.

Thurs., Jan. 5th, 9:00 AM
Bergen Community College
on site Instant Decision Day

Jan. thru March
Individual College Planning
meetings with Juniors

Mon., Jan. 16th
School closed

Thurs., Jan. 19th
Girls’ State & Career Inst. Session

Reminder to Seniors

The Jan. 1st deadline for college applications is approaching fast. All transcript request forms must be submitted to your counselor by Dec. 9th and can be found on Naviance.



HOBY Program

We are pleased to announce that Timothy Hwang and Amy Usatine have been chosen to represent RD at the 2023 HOBY Conference. In addition, Isabel Lee and Ellianna Topchishvili were chosen as the two alternates. Amy and Timothy will be spending a weekend in June at Drew University attending the conference.

The Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY) is one of the oldest and most prominent youth leadership organizations in the world. It was founded by actor Hugh O'Brien after returning from spending nine inspirational days working and volunteering with Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize winner. HOBY gives 10th graders a unique opportunity to interact with distinguished leaders in business, government, education and other professions to discuss present and future issues.

Boys' & Girls' State and Girls' Career Institute

On January 18th, 2023, a presentation will be given by the counselors to all 11th graders regarding the NJ Boys' & Girls' State program and Girls' Career Institute. These programs focus on building leadership skills and give students a distinctive opportunity to attend a weekend conference at a NJ college in June. The presentation will take place during lunch in the auditorium.

Students are encouraged to apply for these prestigious programs. Application procedures and timelines will be given to students during the presentation. If you have any questions about the programs, please contact Mrs. Garcia in the Guidance Office.

College Applications and our 12th Graders

The counselors are meeting daily with their seniors who are presently working very hard to complete their college applications while meeting deadlines. Mid-year reports will be sent out to colleges late January/early February.

College Planning for 11th Graders

The Counseling Dept. will offer several presentations & meetings to all 11th graders and their parents regarding the college application process.

- January 5th: Jr. Post Secondary Planning Night
- Beginning in early January: Counselors will start individual meetings with students and their parents to discuss post graduate plans.

Bergen Community College Instant Decision Day

A representative from BCC will be at River Dell on Thursday, January 5th, 2023 to meet with any senior interested in applying to the college in the fall.

Career Exploration Activity for our 10th Graders

Beginning December 5th, the counselors will be meeting with the sophomores to present information on various careers through activities in Naviance.

How Colleges Award Financial Aid

- ◆ **Colleges Figure Your Family's Contribution:** in figuring your financial aid, the first number colleges consider is your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). This is what colleges expect you can pay for college. The EFC is calculated based on information from your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- ◆ **Colleges Figure How Much Aid You Need:** the next figure is the college's official cost of attendance (COA). The college subtracts your EFC from the COA to determine your financial need.
- ◆ **Colleges Look at Aid Based on Your Need:** colleges consider different types of aid to meet your financial need.
- ◆ **Colleges Look at Aid Based on Your "Merit":** merit aid is a type of gift offered by a college based on the value a student brings to the college. Colleges offer it to attract students whose grades are at the top of the application pool, or who have a talent or quality the college seeks.
- ◆ **Then They Build Your Aid Package According to Their Policies:** some colleges leave a "gap" of unmet need that a family will have to cover. Some use aid to encourage students to commit (a strategy called "preferential packaging". Some will award loans and work-study first, then gift aid. Many will award more gift aid to students who file early and meet financial aid deadlines. Loans are offered later after the gift aid has been used up. Outside scholarship monies can affect your package. By law, colleges are required to reduce your financial need by outside scholarship monies received.
- ◆ **If An Aid Package Falls Short:** you can always appeal your aid offer by asking for a recalculation based on information the admissions office doesn't have due to a change in a family situation or a reconsideration based on aid packages your student received from other colleges. All colleges have an appeal process, just ask.