

# GUIDELINES

## March 2024

### Scheduling

In early March, counselors will begin individual meetings with all students in grades 9 through 11. Students will have the opportunity to review teacher recommendations, discuss graduation requirements, and formalize requests for elective courses. Students should also use this opportunity to review their current progress and discuss any other questions or concerns with their counselor, whether schedule-related or not!

Students and families can begin exploring their extensive options by viewing the formal [RDHS Program of Studies](#). Additionally, thanks to our new RDTV series Behind the Dell, families can also learn more about our exciting new elective courses by [clicking here!](#)

### NJGPA

From Monday, March 11th through Thursday, March 14th, all students in grade 11 will take the computer-based New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA). This assessment is required, and intended to measure proficiency in English/Language Arts & Math.

To learn more about state assessments, please visit the NJDOE Assessment website which has a section devoted to providing information for parents. The website can be found on the [following link](#).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Bergen County Directors of Guidance College Fair

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

5:30-8:30 PM

Ramapo College

Bill Bradley Sports & Recreation Center

**Advanced registration required**

[Link to register](#)

### Local Scholarships for Seniors

Mrs. Obeso has shared a complete, updated list of all local scholarships, as well as application instructions with all students via email. These materials are also available on the [following link](#). All application materials are due to Mrs. Obeso in the guidance office by 3PM on Thursday, March 14th.

### Financial Aid Update

Colleges anticipate receiving FAFSA data in mid-March. At that point, the financial aid process will proceed as normal and from late March to early April, students should receive financial aid packages. Each college will have a unique process and timeline, and we recommend that students and families refer to school-specific communications and websites.

**NJ Dreamers:** If you are an NJ Dreamer (a resident brought to the US as a child without documentation and meets specific criteria) and are not eligible for financial assistance under the FAFSA, you may still be eligible for state financial aid through the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application. To learn more about NJ Dreamers and/or access the application, please [click here](#).

### Our Staff

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## Attendance Matters!

Did you know that the State of New Jersey requires that students are present 90% of all school days? Students who exceed 9 absences in semester courses or 18 absences in full-year courses are at-risk for credit loss, regardless of course grade. Not only is it required, school attendance is crucial for several reasons:

- **Academic Success:** Regular attendance allows students to participate in lessons, engage with teachers, and stay up-to-date with the curriculum. Consistent attendance contributes to better academic performance and understanding of the material.
- **Social and Emotional Development:** School provides a setting for social interactions, collaboration, and the development of interpersonal skills. Regular attendance ensures students can participate in group activities, form friendships, and develop emotional intelligence.
- **Preparation for the Future:** Consistent attendance helps students build a strong foundation for future endeavors, including college or vocational training. Good attendance habits instill discipline and responsibility, traits valuable in both academic and professional settings.
- **Staff-Student Interaction:** Attending school regularly allows students to build relationships with teachers and support staff. These interactions facilitates a better understanding of the material, personalized guidance, and support when needed.
- **School Community Engagement:** Regular attendance fosters a sense of belonging to the school community. Students who attend regularly are more likely to participate in extracurricular activities, clubs, and events, contributing to a well-rounded educational experience.

For more information and practical tips on how to improve attendance, please [click here!](#)

## College Fair Tips

- **Do Your Research:** Research the participating colleges and identify the ones that align with your academic and personal preferences.
- **Prepare Specific Questions:** Ask about unique programs, admission requirements, financial aid, and any other info that will help you make an informed decision. Specific questions demonstrate your genuine interest.
- **Make a Good First Impression:** Dress appropriately and approach each booth with a confident and positive attitude. A good first impression can make a lasting impact on admissions officers!
- **Manage Your Time Efficiently:** College fairs can be overwhelming, so plan your time wisely. Allocate a specific amount of time at each booth and prioritize your top choices.
- **Stay Organized & Follow Up:** After the fair, organize the materials and follow up with the college reps by sending thank-you emails. Use this opportunity to express your continued interest and ask any additional questions you may have thought of after the event.

Hosted by Bergen County  
Directors of Guidance

## BERGEN COUNTY COLLEGE FAIR

 Bill Bradley Sports and  
Recreation Center, Ramapo  
College of New Jersey  
Wednesday, March 20, 2024  
 5:30pm-8:30pm

 **RAMAPO  
COLLEGE**  
OF NEW JERSEY

Representatives from approximately 200 two-year and four-year colleges, nursing schools, business schools and trade schools will participate in this event.



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