

SENIOR COLLEGE & ACTIVITIES ASSEMBLY

Welcome to the Class of 2025!

September 24th, 2024



Who We Are:

- **Ms. Lustig – Assistant Principal**
Slustig2@schools.nyc.gov
- **Ms. Byrd – School Counselor, Last Names A-Gn**
Jbyrd2@schools.nyc.gov
- **Ms. Payne - School Counselor, Last Names Go-Pa**
MPayne3@schools.nyc.gov
- **Ms. Lockhart-Lee - School Counselor, Last Names Pb-Z**
SLockhartlee@schools.nyc.gov
- **Ms. Lewis - 12th Grade Dean**
klewis3@schools.nyc.gov
- **Mr. Edmond– Senior Advisor**
Ledmond@schools.nyc.gov

Managing your Time:



- ❑ Utilize a planner or actively use your google calendar.
- ❑ Always input important dates, class schedule time, deadlines on your planner/calendar.
- ❑ Create a To-Do List to figure out what's the most important and due the soonest.
- ❑ Create and set up a daily schedule that may include; study time, homework time, personal time and break time (Yes, we all need a little break (10-15 minutes) to practice Self-Care).
- ❑ Set alarms and reminders (you don't want to be late) for school and/or deadlines.

FIRST STEPS FOR SENIORS:

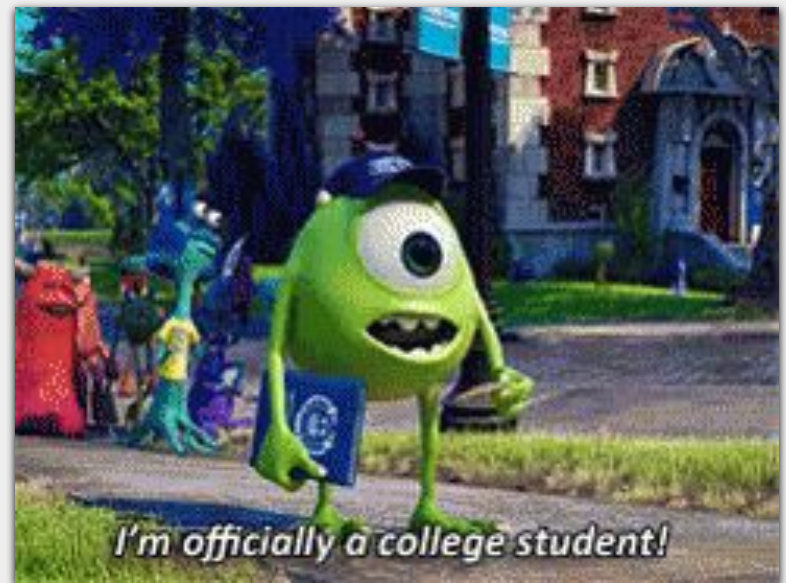
- Your school counselor will begin scheduling meetings with each of you 1:1 in regards to your post-secondary plans. (Look out for an email coming soon with more information)
- Check google classroom **regularly** for updates on upcoming activities, college fairs, links to important documents, ex: College One Stop Shop, Scholarships etc....
- Complete the **Counselor Brag sheet and Senior Post-Secondary Profile** promptly once the links are share with you.
- Many colleges have remained Test Optional - however you may still wish to register for an upcoming SAT or ACT to improve your score. Always do your research so you are aware of which schools require the submission of an SAT / ACT result. **(email your counselor to check if you qualify for a fee waiver)**
- Any student planning to apply **Early Decision or Early Action** deadline 11/01 or 11/15 should complete the counselor's student profile **ASAP** to ensure all documents are submitted on time
- Any student who is completing the **Questbridge Application** or is moving forward in the **POSSE Scholarship** process must notify their counselor **ASAP**
- Complete the income verification form- <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Home/PickDistrict>
This form is what determines fee waivers!

How far along should your child be with their college planning?

- ❑ Did your child take the SAT or ACT?
 - ❑ If not, are they SURE none of the schools they are interested in require it?
- ❑ Are they satisfied with their score?
 - ❑ Retake exams ASAP if wanted
 - ❑ Next SAT Exam – October 5th (registration deadline is Sept. 20th, late registration is Sept. 24th)
 - ❑ Next ACT Exam – October 26th (registration deadline is Sept. 20th, late registration is Oct. 7th)
- ❑ What colleges are they considering applying to?
 - ❑ Have they looked into the requirements?
 - ❑ Do they have a range of schools? (Target, Reach, Likely)
- ❑ Have you discussed what you are comfortable with i.e. location, cost, etc.
- ❑ Will they need to use the Common App, CUNY app, SUNY app?
- ❑ Have they begun to think about getting letters of recommendation?
- ❑ Our goal is for all college applications to be submitted by **Thanksgiving**
- ❑ **PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF DEADLINES!!!!!!**

How Do You Define College?

- Two year vs. four year
- Public, Private, SUNY, CUNY, HBCU
- Trade/vocational/certifications
 - Workshop will be provided for interested students (TBA)
- Location
- Setting - urban, suburban, rural
- Size – small, medium, large
- Distance from home – commute or dorm



You do:

- ❑ Decide what's best for you
- ❑ Research colleges
- ❑ Speak as a family about where to apply
- ❑ Fill out college applications and track deadlines
- ❑ Request SAT/ACT scores to be sent
- ❑ Request and handle teacher recommendations
- ❑ Read **ALL** of the college office emails!
- ❑ Attend scheduled meetings with college advisors

We do:

- ❑ Help you consider your options
- ❑ Offer college suggestions
- ❑ Send transcripts and school profiles when requested
- ❑ Write your counselor recommendation (if requested)
- ❑ Keep you informed about the application and financial aid process
- ❑ Support and aid you through the process (and congratulate you when you get in!)

1:1 Post-Secondary Meetings



- Individual Post-Secondary Planning Meetings will begin soon. Make sure your child has completed the Student Post-Secondary Profile:
 - Ms. Byrd's Student Profile
 - Ms. Payne's Student Profile
 - Ms. Lockhart-Lee's Student Profile

- Bring list of schools they are interested in. This was discussed during your 11th grade year.

- Bring their questions.

- College applications require an email; please make sure your child has an appropriate email address and checks it regularly (not the @nycstudents.net)

The Application Process

Admissions

- **EARLY ACTION/EARLY DECISION**

- Early Decision: binding, you are saying that if you get in you will go
- Early Action: non-binding

- **REGULAR DECISION**

- Apply by the deadline, and the college will let you know by a specified date

- **ROLLING ADMISSIONS**

- Schools review applications as they are submitted
- Apply early: classes will fill up!

- **OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS**

- EOP/HEOP/SEEK/College Discovery



Academic Profile

Finding Your Best Fit

Reach

Students' GPA and Test Scores are *lower* than the average for admitted students.

Appropriate Reach College/University Selectivity

Target

Students' GPA & Test Scores *match* the average for admitted students.

Is financially feasible based on average aid package given to accepted students

Likely

Students' GPA and Test Scores are *higher* than the average for admitted students.

Is financially feasible.

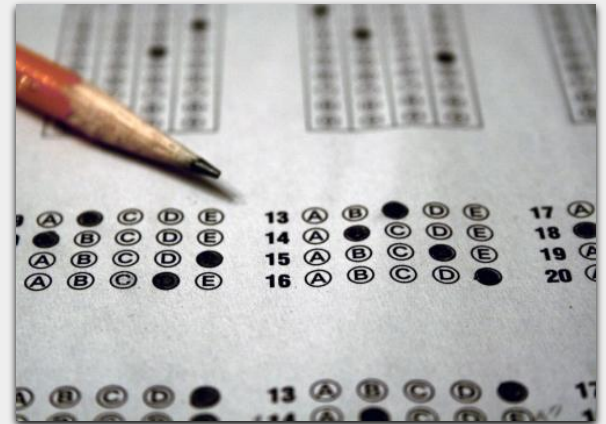
Have a few back up schools you would be happy attending and can afford to attend.

We recommend that students apply to 7-12 schools

- **1-2 Reach Schools**
- **Approximately 4-5 Target Schools**
- **3-4 Likely Schools**

What are Colleges Looking For?

- Transcripts
 - ◆ Types and rigor of classes
- Standardized Test Scores
(if you have them)
 - ◆ SAT
 - ◆ ACT
 - ◆ Test optional
- Personal Essay



What are Colleges Looking For? Continued...

→ In School Extracurricular Activities

- ◆ Consistency
- ◆ Position
- ◆ Time participated

→ Sports

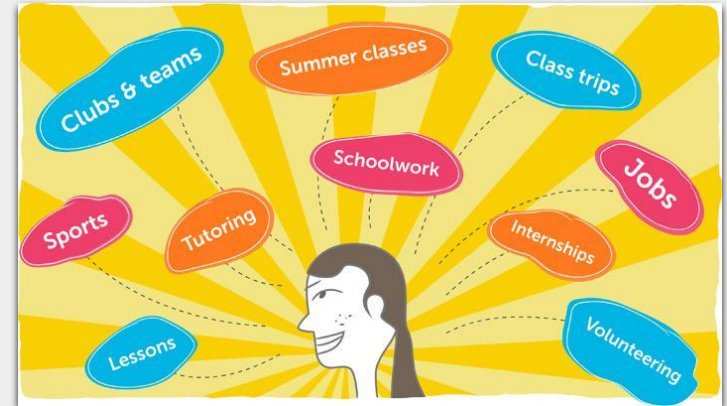
→ Recognitions

- ◆ Achievements/Awards/Honors

→ Outside of School Activities

- ◆ Clubs/Organizations
- ◆ Internships
- ◆ Volunteer Experience

→ Work Experience



Test Scores:

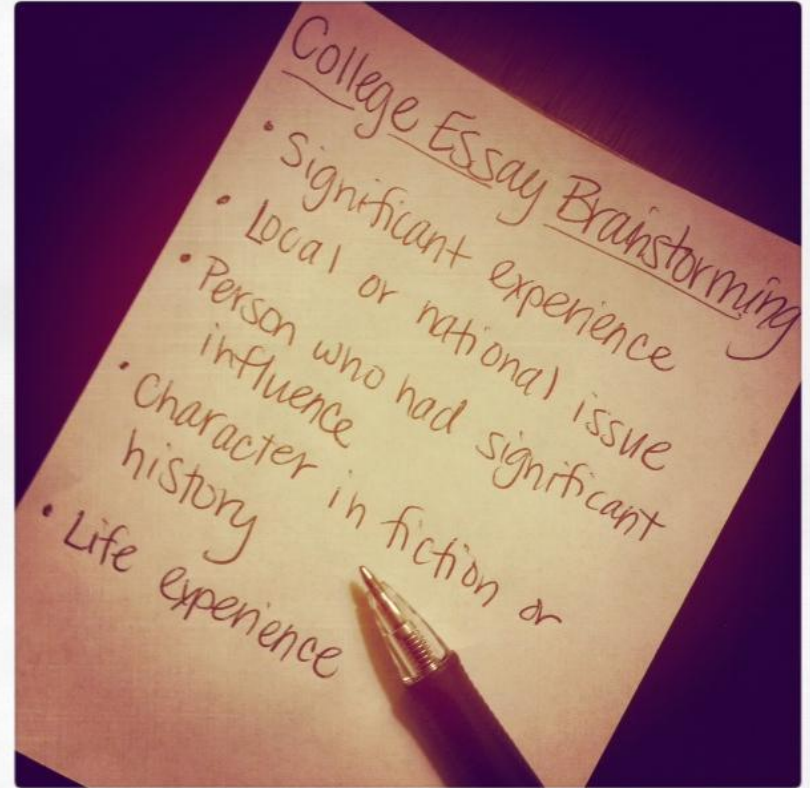


- **CUNYs= Test Optional** (it is not required to submit your SAT/ACT scores but if you scored fairly well, consider sending them in for scholarship opportunities)
- **SUNYs= Test Optional** (it is not required to submit your SAT/ACT scores but if you scored fairly well, consider sending them in for scholarship opportunities)
- **Private College/Universities= most are test optional**
 - To check colleges that are test optional by state go to <https://fairtest.org/test-optional-list/>

The Application Process

Personal Essay

- Common App Essay Prompts
- Where do I start?
 - Positive characteristics
 - Best qualities
 - Overcoming adversity
- Tips:
 - Start early
 - Be honest
 - Proofread
 - Get feedback
 - Edit, Edit, Edit!



**SCHOOLS MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SCHOOL SPECIFIC "SUPPLEMENTAL" ESSAYS
BECAUSE THEY ARE TEST OPTIONAL**

WRITE ESSAYS



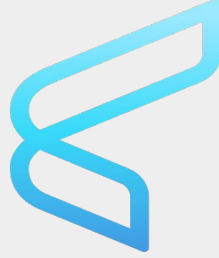
- Your essay is your chance to show who you are *and* how well you write
- Speak honestly and let your personality shine through
- Write in your own voice—don't try to sound impressive, don't overuse a thesaurus!
- Submit polished and thoroughly edited essays
- Essays don't always have to be school- or arts-related
- Consider writing school-specific essays for reach schools
- Check the “One Stop Shop” for tips on writing your essay

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

- Which schools need them? How many? From whom?
- Most schools require one from your School Counselor. Make sure to invite your School Counselor on the college application and complete the “Brag Sheet”
- Not sure if a teacher feels comfortable writing a strong letter for you? Ask!
- Always give teacher *at least 2* weeks to complete, the more time the better!
- Most are electronic, make sure you “invite” the teacher using the correct email address
- Teachers put lots of time into these—send a Thank You note!
- You **must** request a letter of recommendation from your school counselor and complete their Brag Sheet
- ***If you have a different counselor this school year and still want your previous counselor to write your letter of recommendation, you must send them an email to request so you can receive their brag sheet link. You still MUST add only your new counselor to all your college applications.***

****Take a look at template on One Stop Shop****

common
app



COALITION
FOR COLLEGE

- Save time on your college applications!
- CommonApp used by over 900 colleges/universities
- Coalition App used by 150+ schools
- Applications are completed entirely online
- Fill it out once and send to all of the colleges using that platform
 - **Note:** There are often supplements for individual schools
- Each college has a different fee
- *Keep in mind: Fee waivers are available for the CommonApp provided that you are eligible*
- <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- <https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>

****Take a look at the step-by-step instructions on One Stop Shop****

Applying to CUNY and SUNY schools



The City University of New York

- Completed entirely online
 - Apply for up to **6 schools** on one application
 - **Pay ONE \$65 fee** (*Fee waivers will be available based on Income Verification Form.*)
 - Include OSIS #
- <https://www.cuny.edu/>



The State University of New York

- Apply through SUNY website (if students are applying to both SUNYs and Private colleges, it is recommended to use the Common App)
- Apply to multiple campuses with same application (supplements often required)
- **Pay \$50 fee per school** (*fee waivers cover up to 7 schools*)

<https://www.suny.edu/>

Applying to CUNY & SUNY **for FREE!**

Both CUNY and SUNY will be having free application weeks for NYC High School Students!

CUNY:

- Begins: Monday, October 21st
- Ends: Friday, November 15th



SUNY:

- Begins: Monday, October 21st
- Ends: Sunday, November 3rd



What Should The Student Be Doing?

- Complete the Student Profile (if you haven't already)
- Prepare and register for upcoming SAT/ACT exams
 - School code: 330938
 - Email your School Counselor for a Fee Waiver (if you qualify)
- Research colleges and careers using www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search
- Complete the Student Brag Sheet and list activities and accomplishments
- Request recommendation letters
- Begin/finalize writing your personal statement
- **Read the College One Stop Shop carefully**
- Create FSA ID (if you haven't already)
- Apply to Scholarships

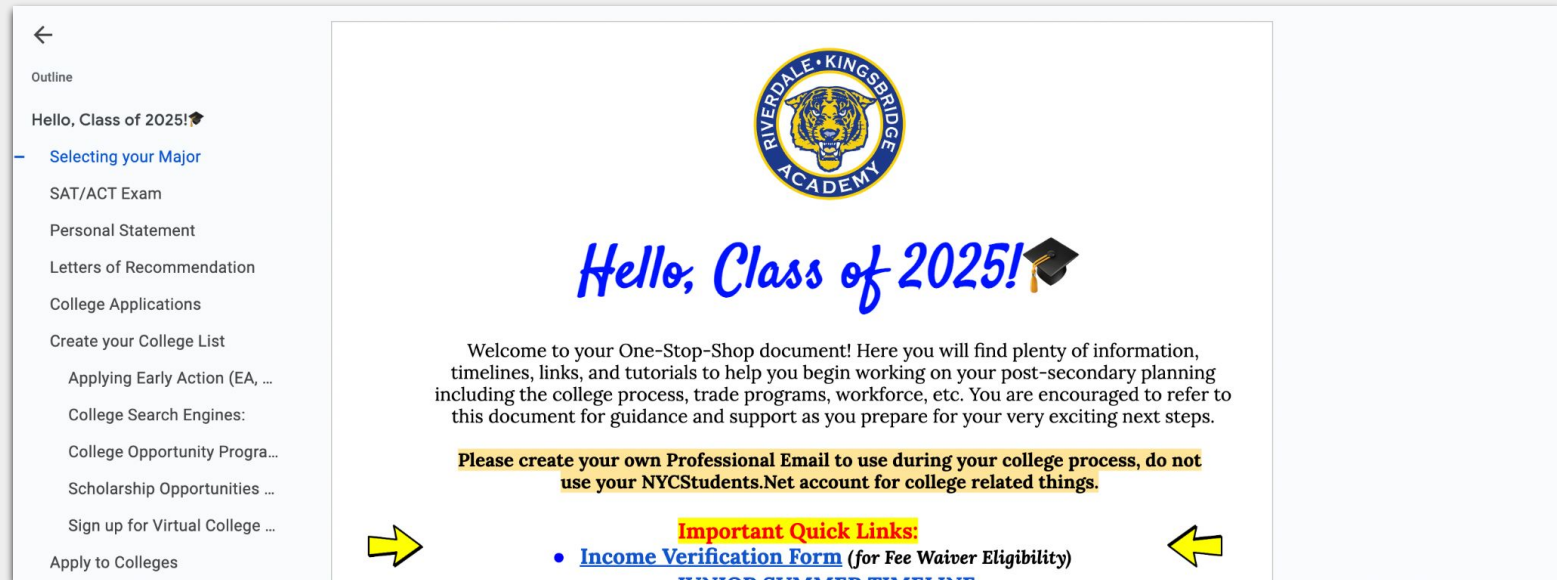


Financial Aid



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- **The FAFSA application will open December 1st, 2024.**
 - Students are to complete the 2025-2026 application
 - You will need your parent(s)/guardian(s) 2023 taxes, and yours if you filed taxes
 - Following the FAFSA, you will apply for **TAP** which is **New York State Aid**
 - Complete the **CSS Profile** *if it is required*
 - **Apply to scholarships!**

One-Stop-Shop



The screenshot shows a digital document interface for Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy. On the left is a navigation menu with the following items: Outline, Hello, Class of 2025! (with a heart icon), **Selecting your Major** (highlighted in blue), SAT/ACT Exam, Personal Statement, Letters of Recommendation, College Applications, Create your College List, Applying Early Action (EA, ...), College Search Engines, College Opportunity Progra..., Scholarship Opportunities ..., Sign up for Virtual College ..., and Apply to Colleges. The main content area features the school's logo (a tiger in a circle with 'RIVERDALE • KINGSBRIDGE ACADEMY'), the text 'Hello, Class of 2025!' with a graduation cap emoji, and a welcome message: 'Welcome to your One-Stop-Shop document! Here you will find plenty of information, timelines, links, and tutorials to help you begin working on your post-secondary planning including the college process, trade programs, workforce, etc. You are encouraged to refer to this document for guidance and support as you prepare for your very exciting next steps.' Below this is a bold instruction: 'Please create your own Professional Email to use during your college process, do not use your NYCStudents.Net account for college related things.' At the bottom, there is a yellow box labeled 'Important Quick Links:' with a blue link: 'Income Verification Form (for Fee Waiver Eligibility)'. Two yellow arrows point towards this link from the left and right sides.

Always refer to the College-One-Stop-Shop!
MOST of your answers are here!!

College Visits

- How/when to schedule?
 - Utilize virtual tours (Ex: youvisit.com)
 - Visit when classes are in session
 - If possible, try to schedule visits in the spring once you are accepted



Ask yourself if you can see yourself going to that college?



Upcoming Events:

- Individual College Visits in October and November (*Please see flyer for dates and times and how to sign up, it will also be posted in the grade level google classroom*)
- CUNY Assembly – October 15 at 9:00 AM (Students Only)
- College Fair at RKA- October 16th (6:30 PM - 8 PM)
- College Fair at Mount St. Vincent- October 22 (Students Only)
- Postsecondary Planning Session (*for eligible students*)- November 13th

Individual College Visits @ RKA



COLLEGE REP VISITS



Brandeis
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

Brandeis University (October 1st, 4th period)

Johns Hopkins University (October 1st, 5th period)

University of Maryland (October 2nd, 2nd period)

City University of New York, CUNY (October 15, 2nd Period)

Sarah Lawrence College (October 22nd 10:00 AM)

American University (October 24th, 9 AM sharp)

SUNY Delhi (November 13th, 9 AM)

SUNY Brockport (TBA)



SUNY Delhi



CUNY THE CITY
UNIVERSITY
OF
NEW YORK



SUNY
BROCKPORT

For additional information please see contact Ms. Payne in room 306

Senior Dues & Activities

Senior Dues for the Class of 2025:

Installment Dates: 11/2/24, 1/31/25, 3/21/25

- **\$350 (3 Installments of \$125, \$125, \$100)**
 - Cap, Gown, Diploma Case
 - Yearbook
 - Senior Spirit Items
 - Two T-Shirts
 - Senior Hoodie
 - Graduation Facility Rental & Decorations
 - Senior Portrait Sitting Fee
 - Senior Awards
 - Senior Spirit Days
 - Triple C Activities
 - Senior Breakfast
 - Decision Day
 - Yearbook Day

Optional Items/Events:

- Senior Pictures - prices vary depending on package selection
- Senior Dinner - \$50
- Senior Prom - \$175
- Senior Day Trip - \$75
- Senior Overnight Trip (2 Days) - \$400
 - Hershey Park & Dorney Park
 - or
 - One-Day Grad Trip (\$75)
- Senior Ring - prices vary depending on ring selection (\$350 - \$1,000)

Fundraising

- World's Finest Chocolate
- 60 Bars in a Box
 - \$35 goes to the company
 - \$25 goes to the student's account
- Accounts can be used to pay all school related expenses
 - Dues
 - Trips
 - Exams

Senior Portraits:



October 21, 2024

Cap & Gown Set

Plain Clothes Set

- By appointment (schedule will be released on 9/27 in GC)
- Prepare NOW (outfits, beauty appointments, etc.)

SENIOR INFORMATIONAL SURVEY

- Used to collect information about sizes for swag items.
- Sizes cannot be changed once the form is submitted.
- Seniors may try on sample items if unsure about sizes.
- ACCURATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFO IS NEEDED (including student & parent mobile numbers and email addresses).
- Complete by Tuesday, October 1, 2024 - Link in GC



Links:

- [One-Stop-Shop](#)
 - [Income Verification Form](#)
(used for fee waiver eligibility)
 - **Student Profiles:**
 - [Ms. Byrd](#)
 - [Ms. Payne](#)
 - [Ms. Lockhart-Lee](#)
 - **Brag Sheets:**
 - [Ms. Byrd](#)
 - [Ms. Payne](#)
 - [Ms. Lockhart-Lee](#)
 - [Common Application Companion](#)
- [CUNY Tutorial](#)
 - [SUNY Tutorial](#)
 - [Common App Video Tutorial](#)
 - [FSA ID Tutorial](#)
 - [CUNY Test-Optional](#)
 - [SUNY Test-Optional](#)
 - [Questions to Ask College Reps](#)

Questions?



If you think of questions after the meeting, please email us.