

SENIOR NEWSLETTER ARC GUIDANCE

It's important to stay focused on your academics and attendance, as these are crucial elements that will pave the way for your future success. Keep pushing yourself to reach your full potential--your hard work *now* will pay off in the long run. Remember, every day counts, and being present is key to absorbing all the knowledge and experiences that will prepare you for the next chapter. Whether you're considering college, the military, or entering the workforce, now is the time to start planning for life after high school. Thinking ahead will help you make informed decisions. Celebrate your achievements, make lasting memories with friends, and be excited about the opportunities that will come your way.



FALL/WINTER, 2024

Patrice Gude, Counselor A-G
Santrice Copeland, Counselor H-O
Juretta Thomas, Counselor P-Z
Carolyn Hawkins, Social Worker
Denise Jenkins, Secretary
Dorothy Johnson, Registrar

706.737.7152 x1571

CLASS OF 2025 TO DO LIST:

- Join the **2025 REMIND** group to receive important announcements.
 - text @sr2025ARC1 to 81010
- Create/visit your account in **GA Futures**
 - gafutures.org
- Complete **YOUSCIENCE** in Launchpad
- If you are college bound, create an account with **commonapp.org** also register for the **SAT** or **ACT**
- If you are military bound, plan to take the **ASVAB--January 16** at ARC.

SENIOR PICTURES:

December 3rd is the final date for senior portraits. Rick Milton is the official ARC photographer. You must be photographed by them to be included in the Yearbook. Use the link in the Weekly Newsletter on the ARC website to sign up. If you have questions, call 706.860.3612.

ARC is an SAT Testing Site:
Register for the test and apply for fee waivers at collegeboard.org

December 7
March 8
May 3
June 7

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- The GA Dept. of Education began mailing **GA Match Letters** to seniors in Oct. These letters offer suggestions of the 4-year and 2-year colleges that students currently qualify to attend after graduation.
- **No Fee November** begins Nov. 1st! Take advantage of having college application fees waived the entire month of November (only participating colleges/universities in Georgia).
- The **2025-2026 FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is expected to open December 1st. Any senior planning to receive the **HOPE Scholarship** and/or any type of financial aid must submit the FAFSA. Find out what you will need: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- **JOSTENS CAP & GOWN ORDERS**
 - **December 6--**Senior presentation (9:30 AM/ cafeteria);
 - **December 12--**Orders will be taken (lunch/Media Center)
 - **December 18--**Makeup day for orders (lunch/Media Center)

TRANSCRIPTS, CONFERENCES, ETC:

If you need your transcript for college applications, programs, military, and scholarships, see Mrs. Jenkins or your counselor. We can also help schedule parent/teacher conferences.

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS:

Please be sure to provide your counselor with ample time (preferably 2 weeks) to write the best recommendation letter possible. Also, have a student resume or 'brag sheet' that highlights your accomplishments.

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH:

Tons of scholarship announcements have been made through the Senior REMIND group sponsored by the ARC counselors! Make sure you have joined. Other resources:

- <https://www.rcboe.org/Page/17812>
- scholarshipamerica.org
- fastweb.com
- scholarships360.org
- gafutures.org

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT:

Watson-Brown Foundation
\$6,000/yr
multiple awards only offered to students in our area
watson-brown.org/scholarship
Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship \$10,000/year
400 awards for seniors pursuing degrees in engineering or programming scholarshipamerica.org



Apply to College @ ARC November Event
One day set aside for Seniors to submit applications.
Details will be sent through REMIND

>>> **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

What is my GPA?

Your cumulative GPA is the average of all of your high school credit classes. It can be found on your transcript. You received a copy of your transcript in the mail with your Senior Status Letter (in Sept). Your HOPE GPA can be found in your gafutures.org account. This GPA is an average of only your core classes (English, Math, Social Sciences, Science, Language). This is the GPA that determines if you receive the HOPE Scholarship in June.

What is the HOPE Scholarship?

The HOPE Scholarship is free money used to pay a portion of a student's tuition at a 4-year college. A high school senior must have a 3.0 HOPE GPA to receive this scholarship. Students have to maintain their GPA in college to receive the scholarship each year.

What is the HOPE Grant?

The HOPE Grant is free money used to pay a portion of a student's tuition at a 2-year or technical college.

HOPE is not used to pay for housing or meal plans.

What are other ways to pay college expenses?

Scholarships award free money that can usually be used to cover any expenses related to college (for example housing, books, meals). Some trusted scholarship search sites are given on the other side of this newsletter. Seniors are strongly encouraged to complete a FAFSA to see if they qualify for federal assistance such as the PELL Grant--based on a family's income. This money can be used to cover most expenses. The FAFSA also determines if students qualify for student loans. LOANS must be paid back.

When and where can I complete the FAFSA?

The 2025-2026 FAFSA is expected to become available online around December 1st. <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/afsa-support>
The FAFSA is a free application.

Can my counselor send my SAT scores to the colleges I want to apply to?

No. Students must request to have SAT--and ACT--scores sent to colleges through their accounts. There may be a fee.

What honors are recognized during graduation?

ARC Graduation Honor Cords/Stoles

- BETA Honors (3.5 avg. Inducted) White Stoles
- National Honor Society (85 avg. Inducted) Blue Stoles
- ARC CTAE Pathway Completers (pathway teacher) Gold/White
- National Soc. Studies Honors Society (Rho Kappa) White/Blue
- Academic Decathlon (Competition/Placement) Red/White/Blue
- FLAIR (3rd Yr. Lang & 90avg.) Red
- Fine Arts Seal (Pathway Completer/Seal) Lavender
- IB Diploma Program (IB Candidate) Teal
- IB Career-related Program (Candidate) Purple
- RCSS Rigor Recognition (3+ courses-IB/Dual/AP) Blue & Gold
- Volunteerism (required hours during 9-12th grades and essay)

When is Graduation???

**May 28, 2025
8:00 AM
Bell Auditorium
Augusta, Georgia**

