

College Counseling

Are you a college and want to visit ARJ?

Please call 706-823-6933 to speak with our Counseling Office.

Please note we only allow visits during lunch periods. Our students cannot miss class for any presentations due to the accelerated coursework.

College Application Timeline

9th Grade - Explore careers through www.gafutures.org Maintain strong grades and develop great study habits.

10th Grade - Continue to explore careers and start to research the differences between ACT and SAT. Take a free practice test at any of the local test prep agencies such as Kaplan, Sylvan and others (ARJ does not endorse any specific agency but will list the services)

JUNIOR YEAR - GET READY!! This is when we start the big stuff. All juniors should take an ACT or SAT by December/January, to get a good benchmark score. Then focus on studying for the test and take it again, before the summer. We will begin Junior College Planning meetings at the beginning of February. Those meetings are scheduled using an online scheduling tool. All parents will receive information at the end of January.

SENIOR YEAR - The college application season begins! All seniors will receive several lessons in applying to college, using the Common App, requesting recommendations, and more. As always, the counseling office is open for questions, but most seniors should already know the basics from our meetings.

Financial Aid and FAFSA

All seniors and their parents/guardians will need to complete the FAFSA in January of the senior year. The application will not be open until January. One of the best resources is the FAFSA customer service, as they are used to all types of questions! There are many companies that will also help you through the FAFSA, but I encourage you to follow the government's website first. It is full of useful information and tips, for every entry you need to make.

WEBSITES TO USE:

www.fafsa.gov - Make sure you are on the .gov site and not another website. There are fake websites out there that charge to fill out the FAFSA. Remember that the F at the

beginning of FAFSA stands for FREE. The customer service at FAFSA is wonderful and are there to help EVERYONE through the process if you have questions.

On this website is the FAFSA4Caster. This gives you the opportunity to estimate your financial aid numbers.

www.gafutures.org – This is where students get information about the HOPE Scholarship. It is critical to stay updated on the HOPE Scholarship requirements and changes.

Thinking of Military Academies?

It's never too early to start preparing. If you are in 9th and 10th grades, be aware of the requirements for each military academy and make sure your grades are UP.

If you are a JUNIOR, you need to be looking at the websites for each military academy. You also need to be familiar with the process of nomination. If you are thinking of applying to a military academy for college, please come see Mrs. Byrd ASAP to familiarize yourself with the process. The military academies begin their processes much earlier than traditional colleges.

Also, there are summer opportunities at the military academies that are VERY COMPETITIVE to attend and give you the sense of that particular academy. Look for those applications in the Spring.

Wondering about AP Credit?

College Board has an outstanding tool that lets you search for a college and view the AP credit policies!

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies>

Georgia PROBE Fairs

Always open to all students, with plenty of events. Augusta holds PROBE fairs in September. The Probe Fairs at local high schools are also open to any students and they encourage others to participate. Check out the Probe calendar to find a tour near you!

<http://www.gaprobe.org/tour-calendar>

Getting Ready for College

When applying to schools, our CEEB/School Code is 110281

RECOMMENDATION REQUESTS

Please use a form from the guidance office when requesting a recommendation. It is imperative that you follow the instructions on the form so that all teachers receive the information they need to write effective recommendations. Even if the recommendations are online, the teachers will still need your information in electronic or hard copy form.

SAT and ACT- College Entrance Exams

Fee Waivers are in the guidance office. Come see Ms. Byrd if you need a fee waiver for SAT, ACT, or college applications.

Almost every student that attends a college has taken the SAT or ACT. But what exactly are

To register for the SAT, go to www.collegeboard.com/mysat The SAT will be changing its format in January 2016. Please stay updated by going to sat.collegeboard.org and reviewing the new format. Khan Academy also has test preparation for the new SAT. These changes will greatly affect the Class of 2017 and beyond. While the redesigned SAT will be scored out of 1600, versus 2400 for the current SAT, there will be new subscores and cross-section scores to consider as you evaluate your performance.

The ACT contains four sub-tests in English, Math, Reading, and Science. A separate ACT Writing Test is also available. Each sub-test has a high score of 36. These sub-test scores are averaged together for a Composite Score. Some colleges look at the sub-tests individually, others consider the entire Composite Score. To register for the ACT, go to www.actstudent.org

The guidance office will assist in determining which assessment is best for you.

Transcripts

You receive THREE FREE hard copy transcripts. Each addition transcript is \$2. These are sealed in an envelope with a copy of the school profile and picked up by the student. **Students are responsible for mailing their own transcripts.**

Electronic transcripts are processed for GA schools in the GAfutures.org platform.

Students are responsible for requesting their own transcripts for any scholarship, college or other application. Students must allow 2-3 days for transcripts to be printed.

****From September to December, students need to allow 2 weeks for transcripts as the volume of requests will be extremely high.****

Students can obtain official transcripts for scholarships or non-college application needs by filling out a Transcript Request Form (available below or in the Guidance Office). Turn in all requests to the Guidance Office.

Students may print a copy of their course history at any time from the parent portal, however, these are typically not accepted by colleges or scholarship programs.