

Senior Guidance Presentation

September 10 & 12, 2019 in Government and Economics classes

Speakers- Kaye Allen, Christina Valderas, and Jennifer Thomas

Slide 1- Intro of Guidance Dept. – Counselors- Kaye Allen 10-12th A-F, Jennifer Thomas 10-12th G-M, and Christina Valderas 10-12th N-Z, Test Coordinator- Kimberly Svatek, College/Career/Scholarship Coordinator- Melissa Fisher, and Registrar Araceli Ruiz for records and transcripts.

Slide 2- Ellis County College Fair is Sept 18 from 6 to 8PM at Waxahachie Civic Center- attendance is encouraged because around 100 of the most popular public and private colleges and technical schools from Texas and out of state will have representatives there to talk with students and tell you all about their schools.

Slide 3- Please pre-register following the instructions provided and bring your barcode on paper or as a screenshot on your phone for the college representatives to scan so they will be able to connect with you and send you needed information. Students who don't pre-register will have to wait for a computer and register at the college fair.

Slide 4- FAFSA opens on October 1 for you to apply for financial aid including grants, loans, and work study. Even if you think you will not qualify for financial aid, many scholarships are also based on your FAFSA. On October 10, ROHS will have college financial aid representatives here to explain the FAFSA, how to do it, and even help parents through the FAFSA process.

Slide 5- Graduation Requirements- required credits, Endorsements, and 5 STAAR End of Course tests required to graduate are explained.

Slide 6- Skyward Graduation Requirements- this is a tab on the Skyward website (not available in the app). This tab lists classes required, the credits you have completed, and your credits in progress. Check out this tab and make sure you have what you need to graduate.

Slide 7- TEA requires all students in the state of Texas to receive CPR training (not certification). If you took Principles of Health in high school, you received the training, and you may have received the training outside of school. We will have CPR trainings for seniors who need it.

Slide 8- Starting last school year, TEA requires all students in the state of Texas to receive instruction on proper interaction with Peace Officers. ROHS will hold this training in the spring for seniors.

Slide 9- DLA- To receive the Foundation Graduation Plan with Endorsements and the Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA), one of your 4 math credits has to be Algebra 2. Check with your college to see if they require the DLA with Algebra 2 for admission. Also, you have to be on the DLA to be eligible for the Top 10% Automatic Admissions to Texas public colleges and universities (UT Austin is top 6%). You still have to meet all other admission requirements and take your SAT or ACT, but there is no minimum SAT/ACT score needed if you fall under the Top 10% Automatic Admissions policy.

Slide 10- Performance Acknowledgements are extra awards for outstanding performance that are denoted on your transcript to show colleges that you excelled in certain areas- college courses, Bilingualism, AP test scores, PSAT, SAT or ACT test scores, or earning a certification or license.

Slide 11- GPA calculation and chart explained- level 1, 2, and 3 courses, and is located in the course description guide on the ROISD website. The weighted GPA is what is used for ranking purposes.

Slide 12- Pass/Fail forms- Can submit during 11th and 12th grade years only for courses that are not needed for a graduation requirement or for your Endorsement. Form is available in the Counseling Office and is due within the 1st 6 weeks of the semester. This allows students to take courses they are interested in without that course affecting their weighted GPA.

Slide 13- Admission testing- SAT and ACT- go to collegeboard.org and/or act.org for information and to register for national test days, view and send scores, learn about tests, and for test prep. Colleges only accept official test scores sent by you through the testing companies- either College Board or ACT.

Slide 14- SAT and ACT prep- data shows that preparation will improve your test scores. There are many good and free resources like Khan Academy, which is a personalized study plan based upon your PSAT scores.

Slide 15- Enrollment testing- Students must be college ready in order to enroll in college classes in the state of Texas. This is done with the TSI test- a basic test in reading, writing, and math. ROHS gives TSI on Saturdays once a month throughout the school year. We will have 1 school day TSI for seniors on October 16. There will be 200 spots, first-come-first-serve, so come to the front of the counseling office and sign up to take your TSI on this day. You need to pay at the time you sign up- \$30 or \$10 per section. Always check with your college admissions office or in your college portal (once you are accepted) and make sure you are TSI complete in reading, writing, and math.

Slide 16- You can be exempt from TSI with SAT or ACT scores- SAT EBRW 480+ will exempt you from TSI reading and writing sections, and SAT math 530+ will exempt you from TSI math. ACT scores- 23+ Composite with 19+ on English will exempt you from TSI reading and writing and a 19+ on ACT math will exempt you from TSI math. Exemptions are good for 5 years.

Slide 17- Steps to College Admissions:

- 1- Applications- narrow colleges down, watch their deadlines, and use applytexas.org to apply to Texas colleges
- 2- School specific supplements- are essays required?
- 3- Recommendations- any needed?
- 4- Official transcript- fill out form in front of counseling office, cost is \$1, return form to Registrar who will send your transcript- may take 24 to 48 hours to process
- 5- Application fees- in some cases this may be waived by the college if you used a SAT or ACT fee waiver
- 6- Admissions test scores- SAT and/or ACT- colleges require you to send official scores through the test companies- collegeboard.org and act.org
- 7- Any additional testing? TSI? If needed, make sure and send your scores

Slide 18- Do you research- use websites like ROHS' new Naviance program, your colleges' websites, and other websites like collegeforalltexas.com to learn about college opportunities and to narrow your colleges down by factors such as location, cost, and available majors.

Slide 19- Naviance is a very powerful tool to help research colleges, careers, scholarships, and take interest inventories. Starting in the 2019-2020 school year, every ROHS student has a Naviance account, and you login with your ID# at student.naviance.com/redoakhs.

Slide 20- go to www.applytexas.org to submit applications for admissions to Texas colleges.

Slide 21- Make sure you understand college admissions- go to your college's website and research freshman college admissions to determine the SAT/ACT score required according to your GPA/rank/quartile. Also determine if you need Algebra 2 and any additional courses.

Slide 22- The ROHS transcript request form can be picked up in front of the counseling office. Fill it out with needed signatures, pay \$1 per transcript, and the Registrar will send your official transcripts to your colleges. This may take 24 to 48 hours to process.

Slide 23- Senior Brag sheet is a great tool for letters of recommendation. Give this or a resume to your recommender when you ask for a recommendation, and give them 2 weeks to write your letter.

Slide 24- College Visit form- seniors are allowed 2 per year, complete the form and take to attendance office 48 hours before college visit. Bring proof of visit back to attendance office immediately upon return, and your absence will be changed to a college day which will not affect your attendance.

Slide 25- Visit the ROHS College and Career Headquarters for important information and list of scholarships.

Slide 26- Follow the counseling department on Facebook and Twitter @rohscounselors for important updates and scholarship information.