

**Class of
2021
Guide to
Senior Year**

Welcome to Senior Year Class of 2021

*****PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE CHANGES TO THIS HANDBOOK BASED ON WHEN SCHOOL REOPENS AND WHAT NEW GUIDELINES ARE IN PLACE*****

This booklet has been created to help you plan for an awesome senior year! There are many activities and opportunities, but your senior year will only be what you make of it. The main bit of advice that we can give you in preparation for this year is the same as for your first year of college:

- ★ Be prepared financially
- ★ Pay strict attention to deadlines
- ★ Don't guess--ask!
- ★ Have a great time.

Update your e-mail address to a more professional sounding address. "MSolkoff" would be a much better way for colleges to recognize you rather than "The8treTcha."

Yearbook Office Room 12 South
(718) 433-2556 ext. 1112
Yearbook Advisor: Ms. Tuite
E-mail: DTuite@schools.nyc.gov

Senior Advisor: Ms. Dudley
EDudley@schools.nyc.gov
Room 12 South
(718) 433-2556 x1003

College Advisor: Mr. Guilford
College Office Room 357 North
E-mail: BGuilford@schools.nyc.gov
(718) 361-8786 x3570

Join Senior Committee! Have a voice in what fun things will be available for your senior class. You will be required to fundraise and attend monthly meetings.

See Ms. Dudley or Saoirse Boyle for more information.

Sign Up Here: <https://forms.gle/pJ93VMuViEKGrR2f7>

Possible Expenses for Senior Year

AP Exams--\$91 each (unless you have a waiver)

SAT--\$43 (with essay \$54.50) / SAT II--\$26 / ACT--\$56.50 (with essay)

College Applications--varies by school (check the websites)

Trips:

January "Honors Haven Resort" Weekend - \$350 (\$50 Deposit due October 30th, \$300 balance due December 11th)

Other Trips--around \$25-\$50 each--Senior Committee will organize and plan other excursions for the senior class. These trips have included bowling, ice skating, baseball games, rock climbing, etc.

Class of 2021 Expenses:

Senior Dues \$130/\$160--Are mandatory and cover the costs of the graduation ceremony, cap and gown, printing, senior activities, etc. Senior dues will be collected from everyone regardless when your actual graduation date occurs. Due date: November 2, 2020.

Prom \$135--Prom will tentatively be held on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at Leonard's of Great Neck. Limousine expenses are usually around \$75-100 per person, and dress/suits usually average around \$150.

Yearbook \$85 (depending on personalization)

Senior Pictures--packets vary in price based on what you want to purchase

Senior Class Ring-- \$75 and up

These prices are just approximations. They can be more or less. In order to make these prices less than what they are, you must help as much as you can in fundraising events such as the purchase of sweatshirts and other senior items.

MOST IMPORTANTLY--HAVE SPIRIT!!

COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

REGISTER FOR THE SAT/ACT

SAT: anticipated SAT dates for Fall 2020 – www.sat.collegeboard.org

- August 29
- September 26
- October 3
- November 7
- December 5
- Subject tests offered on all above dates, except September 26
- SAT Registration Fee – \$52 (\$68 with essay); Late fee – add \$30; \$0 with fee waiver
- SAT Subject Test Registration Fee – \$26

ACT: anticipated ACT dates for Fall 2020 – www.act.org

- September 12 – registration deadline August 14
- October 24 – registration deadline September 18
- December 12 – registration deadline November 6
- ACT Registration Fee – \$70; Late fee – add \$30; \$0 with fee waiver

Prepare for your SAT/ACT exams – Check the College Office Website for information and phone numbers for programs. Prepare on your own as well. Visit the following for online test prep:

- SAT – collegeboard.org (sign up for question of the day)
- www.khanacademy.org
- ACT - www.act.org
- www.princetonreview.com
- www.kaplan.com
- www.freerice.com (vocabulary practice)

Fee Waivers – If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, you may get fee waivers for SAT, SAT subject tests (SAT II), and ACT exams. You may also get fee waivers for some college application fees. You **MUST** complete your lunch form at the start of the school year to be eligible.

TOEFL Exam – If you were not born in this country, you may be required by some colleges to take the TOEFL exam. Visit www.ets.org/toefl for more information. The test is \$180+ (if you qualify for a fee reduction, the cost will be 50% of regular fee).

Explore Colleges – Research good fit colleges and their requirements by utilizing resources such as:

- www.collegeboard.org (www.BigFuture.Collegeboard.org)
- www.petersons.com
- www.collegenet.com
- www.collegeview.com
- www.usnews.com
- www.ny-college.com
- www.campustours.com

Amazon.com and the Library will have books that can help guide you as well. When you have your SAT/ACT scores, compare your scores with the published averages of a particular college. Continue to create a balanced list of schools that include:

- REACH SCHOOLS – highly competitive schools which generally accept students with GPAs and SAT scores slightly above your own
- TARGET SCHOOLS – schools which generally accept scores comparable to your own
- SAFE SCHOOLS – schools at which your chance of being accepted is GOOD and at which your application will MOST LIKELY be accepted

Applications – All applications are completed online. The Common App should be used for SUNY and private colleges, while the CUNY application should be used for CUNY colleges (as many CUNY schools are not available on Common App). If a school is not available on the Common App, you can apply through that school's specific website.

Common Application (www.commonapp.org) entails completing ONE application to apply to multiple schools. This is the best way to apply if you are applying to multiple schools (except for CUNY colleges; use the CUNY application for those). Many colleges accept the Common App. Visit www.commonapp.org to see which schools use it. Familiarize yourself with the Common App. It goes live on August 1st. BEGIN IT IN AUGUST!!!

***** Academy of American Studies is a Naviance school. That means that you match/link your CommonApp account to your Naviance account, and your counselor is able to send everything electronically. *****

Visit college websites for deadline and application requirements.

- CUNY – Visit www.cuny.edu/apply. View individual campuses and programs. Apply through the **SEEK** program if your GPA and SAT scores fall below the averages on the CUNY profile received during advisement. Macaulay Honors will have a December 1 deadline.
- SUNY – Visit www.suny.edu to view individual campuses and programs. Apply through **EOP** if your GPA and SAT scores fall below the SUNY profile received during advisement.
- Private Schools – Visit their websites to view campus and program information. Apply through the **HEOP** Program if your GPA and SAT scores fall below the published averages.

Early Action/Early Decision (EA/ED) – EA is non-binding, ED is binding. Application Deadlines for EA/ED - November 1st. All EA/ED applications are completed with your counselor. Make an appointment by mid-October to ensure that deadlines are met.

Letters of Recommendation – Most schools require letters of recommendation (check admission requirements for your schools). Schools generally will not ask for more than one or two teacher recommendations so you need not ask all of your teachers for a letter. Guidance Counselor Letters of Recommendation will be written only upon proof of requirement and must be requested by October 23rd. **Recommendation request forms can be obtained at school and should be submitted to your teacher in person and officially requested through Naviance. Your college essay and resume must be on your Naviance account to be able to request a letter.** Teachers and counselors work very hard on these letters. Please acknowledge their hard work on your behalf by thanking them. Request your letters early.

Essays – Most schools will require that you write an essay or personal statement. This is your opportunity to 'talk' to the admissions committees. Use this opportunity to show them your writing skills, as well as give them the chance to learn a little more about you. Research the requirements of your selected schools to learn more and visit www.commonapp.org for essay prompts to help the thinking process. For additional help, visit: <http://collegeboard.org/student/apply/essay>. If you have not already begun your essay, do so during the summer and have it completed in the fall.

Financial Aid – The FAFSA (Free Application For Federal Student Aid) will be available October 1, 2020. This is FREE, do not pay for the filing of your FAFSA. Parent tax returns for **2019** will be required in order for the FAFSA to be officially submitted. You may begin the FAFSA early by using the FAFSA Forecaster. Some schools will also require the **CSS Profile** found through College Board. For additional help visit:

- FAFSA – www.fafsa.gov (only use .gov not .com)
- CSS PROFILE – www.collegeboard.org (some colleges require)
- Federal and State – www.hesc.com
- Financial Aid Counselors – www.finaid.org
- Loan Information – www.salliemae.com
- FAFSA Forecaster – <https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm?execution=e1s1>

Scholarships are sent out on a regular basis via email through Pupilpath and/or Naviance. Create a profile through Fastweb. They will e-mail you scholarships. Search the Internet.

- www.fastweb.com
- www.collegeboard.org
- www.princetonreview.com
- www.scholarships.com

Career Exploration –

Occupational Outlook Handbook	www.bls.gov/oco
Quintessential Careers	www.quintcareers.com/career_exploration.html
Career Browser	www.collegeboard.com
Career Descriptions	www.careerexplorer.net
Careers and Industries	www.wetfeet.com
Job Profiles	www.jobprofiles.org
Occupational Profiles	www.vault.com
New York Career Zone	www.nycareerzone.org

Searching for & Researching Colleges

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
www.cappex.com
www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
<http://College-insight.org>
www.niche.com
 Naviance–
<https://student.naviance.com/aashs>

Scholarships

www.fastweb.com
 Sign up and make a profile NOW
www.myscholly.com
www.scholarships.com
www.JLVcollegecounseling.com
www.chegg.com

Standardized Test Resources www.sat.collegeboard.org www.actstudent.org www.kaplan.com www.princetonreview.com www.khanacademy.org	Essay-Writing Resources www.CollegeEssayGuy.com www.EssayHell.com
Financial Aid www.fafsa.ed.gov www.studentaid.ed.gov www.Finaid.org www.hesc.org www.savingforcollege.com	Further Reading www.usnews.com/education www.collegeresults.org Blog.prepscholar.com www.petersons.com

Senior year is an important one. Report card grades, mid-year grades, and end-year grades will be sent to colleges, so you must maintain good grades ALL YEAR and continue with a full senior course load.

Good luck with your exploration. Keep in mind that all college-related questions can be directed to the College Advisor, Mr. Guilford at BGuilford@schools.nyc.gov. (Room 357N).

COLLEGE OFFICE CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER:

- Register **early** for SAT/ACT (**register in early August**).
- If applying for Questbridge Scholarship, deadline is late September (TBA).
- Finalize college list.
- The Common Application is available August 1, 2020 (www.commonapp.org). Be sure to match/link your Common App account to your Naviance account (as directed by Mr. Guilford).
- Consider carefully your responsibilities if applying for Early Action or Early Decision. See your counselor if applying EA/ED.
- Work on essay drafts. Meet with an English teacher for help.
- Request recommendations from teachers and others.
- Get off to a good start academically.
- Plan college visits and interviews (remember to send thank you letters).
- Visit college websites, open houses and college fairs.
- Attend information sessions at the school and college fairs.
- Listen to daily announcements and regularly check your email for college info.
- Inquire about the TOEFL exam if a school requires it.

OCTOBER:

- Mandatory senior meeting for college application process--Mid-October, in the auditorium.
- Start CUNY application (as directed by Mr. Guilford).
- Review for SAT/ACT – Take exam – Send scores.
- Register for November SAT.
- Familiarize yourself with FAFSA (which opens in the beginning of October).
- Review transcript with a counselor.
- Request recommendations from teachers and others.
- If you are applying Early Action or Early Decision, be aware of DEADLINES. Make an appointment with your counselor and college advisor no later than October 16, 2020.
- Continue to work on and finalize college essay. Ask an English teacher for help.
- Begin filling out applications (both Common App for SUNY/private and the CUNY app for CUNY).
- Make an appointment with college contact person.
- Visit college websites, open houses and college fairs.
- Listen to daily announcements and regularly check your email for college info.
- Attend information sessions at the school.
- Register for TOEFL exam if required.

NOVEMBER:

- Complete and submit any Early Action/Early Decision applications by November 1.
- SAT/ACT – Take Exam – Send Scores.
- Complete and finalize applications.
- Make an appointment with college contact person.
- Research and gather scholarship options throughout the year.
- Submit scholarship applications in a timely fashion.
- Set a personal application deadline for all applications for Thanksgiving.
- Visit college websites, open houses and college fairs.
- Attend information sessions at the school.
- Listen to daily announcements and regularly check your email for college info.

DECEMBER:

- SAT/ACT – Take Exam – Send Scores.
- Complete and finalize applications.
- Check all application deadlines.
- Make an appointment to do mailing with your college contact person (come prepared!).
- Log onto FAFSA Forecaster to begin the Financial Aid Process.
- Listen to daily announcements and regularly check your email for college info.

JANUARY:

- Attend Financial Aid Seminar.
- File FAFSA (which can be done as early as October 1, 2020). Log onto FAFSA.gov --this is a free service! Do not go onto websites that you have to pay for.
- Submit requests for mid-year reports.
- Finish other/late college applications.
- Listen to daily announcements and regularly check your email for college info.

FEBRUARY:

- Continue to fill out scholarship applications.
- Seek help for the appeals process with College Advisor.
- Check deadlines for AP Test fees or fee waivers.
- Be sure FAFSA Form is completed and submitted.
- Listen to daily announcements and regularly check your email for college info.

MARCH:

- Seek help for the appeals process with College Advisor.
- Listen to daily announcements and regularly check your email for college info.

APRIL:

- Submit any new material to colleges which may help.
- Seek help for the appeals process with College Advisor.
- Listen to daily announcements and regularly check your email for college info.
- Complete your last college visits before making your decision. Look out for **Accepted Student Events** to help make your decision.
- Finalize college plans and prepare commitment deposit for May.

MAY:

- College Decision Day is May 1, 2021 (most colleges have this commitment/deposit deadline).
- Take AP Exams.
- Submit any material and forms needed for matriculation (Immunization records, Roommate request, Orientation forms).
- Listen to daily announcements and regularly check your email for college info.
- Follow up with your school for information on **placement/assessment tests**.
- Notify your counselor of any **scholarships** received.
- Make sure everything is updated in **Naviance Family Connection** – all colleges you applied to and *responses you got; scholarships awarded; and your final decision.*

JUNE:

- Fill out and return Senior Packet with stamped/addressed envelope.
- Request to have your **final transcript** sent to your college after graduation.
- Complete college decision survey.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

REGENTS RETAKES

In order to ensure that all students are college ready, you will be signed up to retake Regents exams under the following circumstances:

- You have received a grade of less than 65
- You have received a grade of less than 79 on an English Regents
- You have received a grade of less than 80 on a Math Regents

Questions? Speak with your guidance counselor.

SENIOR SPEAKER

Would you like to be the Senior Speaker at graduation? Auditions will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 2pm in room 12 South. Please be prepared with a 3-5 minute speech to be presented to the senior committee.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Seniors are required to have accomplished a minimum of 45 community service hours which must be logged and handed in by May 21, 2021. This is in addition to the 25 hours (due March 15th, 2021) if you are eligible for induction for Senior Honor Society. Seniors who have completed over 100 hours of community service will receive a special designation on their diploma and an honor cord at Graduation.

VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN POLICY

The Valedictorian will be selected under the following criteria:

1. The top-ranked student as determined by STARS at the end of their seventh semester.
2. The student must have passed all classes NOT averaged by STARS.
3. A panel of teachers will review the students' records to verify satisfactory citizenship.
4. Completion of the senior year community service requirement.
5. The student must have entered the Academy by the first day of the second semester of their sophomore year.

The Salutatorian will be the second-ranked student selected under the criteria mentioned above.

In case of a tie: If two students tie for the honor of valedictorian the award will go to the student who has taken and passed the greatest number of New York State Regents. If the students are still tied the award will be given to the student with the highest Regents average on the exams needed for a New York State Advanced Regents diploma. The student with the higher average here will be valedictorian and the other student will be salutatorian. If two students tie for salutatorian the tie will be broken in the same manner as above. The student with the higher average will be salutatorian and the student with the lower average will be ranked third.

If the honor is refused the next highest ranked student by the above criteria will take his/her place.

Any discrepancies with the above policy will be handed to a panel that consists of the principal, assistant principal, senior class advisor, one guidance counselor and the dean.

WE WISH EVERYONE MUCH ACADEMIC SUCCESS!!

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation is tentatively set for Friday, June 25, 2021 at Colden Auditorium at Queens College.

There will be 4 graduation rehearsals before graduation day. Attendance for all graduation candidates is mandatory. These days are tentative and will be confirmed in September. On Tuesday, March 23, 2021, there will be a mandatory evening meeting at 6pm for all seniors and their parents in the auditorium.

Students need at least 44 credits to graduate

2 credits for most courses are granted on your June transcript since we are annualized.

<p>8 English--(1 English class each year for 4 years) 8 Social Studies--Global 1 & 2, US History, Government, Economics 6 Math 6 Science 2 Foreign Language (6 to take the Regents) 2 Arts 1 Health .50 x 8 semesters for Physical Education 7 Sequence Courses / Electives</p>	<p>I need to get at least 65+ the following exams: English Math Social Studies Science Plus 1 more exam in math, social studies, science or foreign language.</p>
<p>If I plan on getting an Advanced Regents Diploma, I need to get 65+ on the following exams: English Integrated Algebra Geometry Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry Global Studies US History Living Environment 1 Additional Science Foreign Language (LOTE)</p>	<p>If I plan on getting an Academy Honors designation on my diploma, I need to receive an Advanced Regents Diploma, received a passing community service grade in grades 10-12, and get 65+ in the following classes: Freshman American History Sophomore American History Law Senior Thesis</p>

A student may not participate in the graduation ceremony if s/he has not passed all required New York State sequences and exams.

According to Department of Education policy, all seniors must have a full program of 7 classes.

ARE YOU GETTING PUPILPATH EMAILS? During Senior Year, you will get information about trips, scholarships, internships, deadlines, college visits, and more on Pupilpath!