

**2025**  
*Class of*

Standard

Subject Area	Credits	SOLs
English	4	2
Math	3	1
Science	3	1
Social Studies	3	1
PE	2	
World Language, Fine Arts, CTE	2	
Econ	1	
Electives	4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>

Advanced

Subject Area	Credits	SOLs
English	4	2
Math	4	1
Science	4	1
Social Studies	4	1
World Language	3	
PE	2	
Fine Arts/CTE	1	
Econ	1	
Electives	3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5</b>

# Graduation Requirements

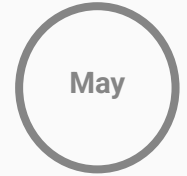


## Additional Requirements for Graduation

- Sequential Elective
- Adv. Placement, Honors, or CTE Credential
- Virtual Course (Satisfied through Econ.)
- Training in emergency 1st aid, CPR, & AED

Students should be  
informed & let counselors  
know if they are missing  
something!

# College Timeline



**Application Prep**

**Begin App. Process**

**Early Deadlines**

**Before Winter Break**

**After Winter Break**

**Smooth Sailing...**

Senior 1:1

November 1st!

More deadlines

Regular Decision deadlines

Nat'l College Decision Day

Take SAT/ACTs

Trainings

Early Action vs decision

Some scholarships

Scholarships!

AP Exams

College Research

Request documents

FAFSA

Lots of acceptance letters!

Prepare for Graduation!

Organization Tools, College  
Planner

# Before you request transcripts or letters of recommendation!



- RCPS high schools use a program called Major Clarity for sending transcripts, letters of recommendation, and school reports to colleges.
- Be checking the "[Rising Senior College Applicants Landing Page](#)" regularly. We will be adding new information as we receive it.
- **All transcripts and Letters of Recommendation must be sent through Major Clarity.** Please do not email teachers asking them to send a letter of recommendation to a school. If you have a recommender that is outside of SHS, it is fine to ask them to send a letter of recommendation as you see fit.

**We will hold a Rising Senior and a Major Clarity training in the first weeks of September!**

# SHS Career Coach

*Mrs. Meredith Garber*

**Email:** meredithgarber@rockingham.k12.va.us **Website :** <https://meredithgarbershscareercoach.weebly.com/>

Mrs. Garber can work with ANY student and helps ALL students become aware of opportunities available & set goals to achieve future plans.

She is happy to assist ALL Spotswood students with anything related to:

- Education/Career Exploration and Planning
- Career/College/Major Assessments
- College Applications
- Financial Aid & FAFSA
- Scholarships
- MajorClarity
- College Entrance Exams
- College Transfer Degrees
- 2 Year Associate Degrees
- Technical and Workforce Training (G3)
- Certification Programs
- Dual and Concurrent Enrollment
- Military
- Job Shadowing
- Employer Visits
- Creating Resumes/Employment Applications
- Job Searches
- And much more!

**Mrs. Garber's goal is to help you find the path to the future you want!**

# Important tips for Seniors

- ATTEND the info sessions!!
- Plan ahead - meet with counselors SOONER than later!
- Pay Attention to announcements!
- **CHECK YOUR EMAIL!**

# College driven events

MajorClarity Training

College Rep Visits

Financial Help Workshops

Application Help Sessions

Senior 1:1's

A yellow starburst graphic with a pink outline, containing the text "Stay Tuned for Dates!".

***Stay Tuned for  
Dates!***

# Senior 1:1's

Fall is time for Senior 1:1's.



**This meeting is  
vital. Be  
prepared for  
this!**

In this meeting you and your counselor will:

- Review your Grad Requirements & Planner
- Review your Transcript
- Discuss your College Application plans and needs



# Researching Colleges

- What Majors do they have?
- What is their stance on AP/DE courses?
- What about SAT/ACT scores?
- Cost and locations?
- Required High school Coursework
- What documents do they want?
- What scores do they expect?
  - AP exams / GPA / SAT or ACT
- What are their deadlines?
  - Early Action | Early Decision | Regular Admission | Rolling

*If it's not on  
their website,  
call them!*

VA College  
Acceptance  
Data!

Click here,  
really neat  
info.

# The anatomy of a college application:

- Application fee (waivers may be available)
- Transcript
- School Profile
- Personal Statement/Essay
- Teacher/Counselor Recommendation
- SAT/ACT Test Scores, AP Scores (Counselors do not send these!)
- Mid-year and final transcripts

# Why should I hold off sending my transcripts until September?

Transcripts are not typically available until Mid Sept. Why?

1. MajorClarity will not be active in the summer.
2. We need to get through schedule changes to be sure senior schedules are correct.
3. Senior schedule may not be added on transcript until school begins.
4. In August, counselors are:
  - a. Double checking for scheduling errors.
  - b. Adding new enrollments
  - c. Adding final grades from summer courses

*All of these factors impact GPA and class rank!*

# Transcripts

- With the knowledge you have from the previous slide, you may still request an **unofficial** transcripts by emailing registrar, Debbie Correa, dcorrea@rockingham.k12.va.us
- Colleges will require an **official** transcript to be sent **directly** from SHS.
- **Official transcripts should be requested through Major Clarity & at least 2 weeks before deadline.**
- **Please note:** official transcripts will not be sent until closer to the school's deadline.
- Transcripts for scholarships can be requested by email registrar or school counselor.
- Mid Year Transcripts are sent automatically.
- Final Transcripts are sent **after** final grades are stored in PowerSchool which will be AFTER graduation. Counselors will send ONE final transcript to the school that the students indicates.

# Letters of Reference

- **Teacher** LORs are requested through MajorClarity. (outside recommenders may be requested how you wish)
- Follow their rules: Does the college you are applying to *actually* want a recommendation letter?  
Do they have a limit (ex: no more than 1)?
- Be sure to ask someone who will write a *favorable* letter of recommendation.
- Give the writer **at least 2-4 weeks** to complete the letter.
- Don't forget - teachers (and counselors!) have winter & summer break too!
- **Include a resume or list of your activities** & accomplishments so the recommender knows what to include!
- Always say THANK YOU with a note, email, or card.

# College Entrance Exams

- To Search for Location & Dates, and Register, please visit either

[ACT.org](https://act.org)

[Collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org) for SATs

“**Superscoring**” (using subscores from both tests) can help

- Helpful Link: [SAT vs ACT: Which Test is Right for you?](#)
- Check College Admissions pages to see if they are testing OR testing optional. **Is your college test optional? Find out by clicking [HERE](#).** (We would still recommend that you check with each school for advisement and confirmation)
- If you qualify for Free or Reduced Lunches - you may request testing Fee Waivers from your counselor.
- ASVAB - used to determine qualification for enlistment in the United States Armed Forces.
  - Military based, Date: TBA - STAY TUNED!

# MajorClarity

- We will send; Transcripts, letters of recommendation, Common App Forms & SHS school profile.
- ALL college document requests MUST go through MajorClarity, even if you apply through Common App, directly to the institution, or Coalition.
- These requests can only be made by Student, not a parent.

# Scholarships & Financial Aid

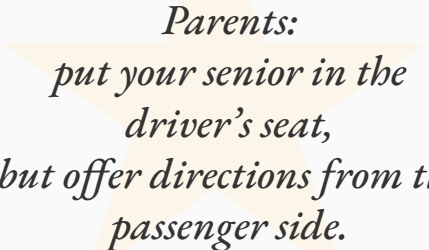
- The FAFSA can be filled out starting in October.
- Scholarships will be available in the Winter/early Spring
  - Keep checking in every so often - new ones come out often!
  - Use pen, keep it neat, papers flat & organized!
  - Watch deadlines!
- Apply, apply, apply!! Even if they are only for a small amount.
- Be SMART - Scholarship Scams DO EXIST
- Don't forget!
  - Financial Aid Help Sessions - held in the fall during Advisory



# Pro Tips for a **HAPPY** Application Season

*We know watching your senior applying to college  
can be STRESSFUL on families.*

- Have an organization tool. Here's an [EXAMPLE](#).
- Have a resume or "brag sheet" handy (for letters of rec)
- Do NOT not wait until the last minute!
  - **I repeat... do not wait until the last minute!**
- Set healthy boundaries to manage stress and balance
- Celebrate milestones and make memories
- Attend any and all info sessions together: from admissions, college fairs, financial aid, etc



*Parents:  
put your senior in the  
driver's seat,  
but offer directions from the  
passenger side.*

# Thank you!

