**Fall 2013 News from the Counseling Office**

**ACT testing**

**Juniors and Seniors** - If you are interested in taking the ACT, the next available test date is **Oct 26**. You can register without a late fee by **September 27**. Juniors will take the test at school in April but we strongly encourage juniors to take the test in December or February so that they will test at least twice in their junior year. Scores often increase with additional attempts. The junior testing of the ACT at RHS in April will include the writing this year so it is most likely not necessary for you to sign up for the writing portion of the test. To sign up, you must do so online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). You will have to upload a picture for identification purposes. If you have any questions about the ACT testing and registration process please call or email Mrs. Robinson at jrobinson@riverdaleschools.org.

**Seniors** - Many **college application deadlines** and priority filing deadlines are approaching (for example U of I and ISU). Please have transcript requests in well before the deadline. We can not always produce them immediately. Please check college websites to find the deadline dates of the schools that you are planning on applying to so that you do not miss out. To be considered for selective programs and scholarships schools often require early application.

**Seniors** - If you are applying to college, it is your responsibility to make sure that all items have arrived at the college admission office(check online if possible). If it is not online, call the admissions office to ensure that everything has been received.

**Juniors** - Please consider setting up **college visits** this year. Many colleges have open houses throughout the year and the majority of schools will be open on **Columbus Day** and **Veterans Day**. Students often regret waiting to do visits until senior year because they are often so busy that they can not easily fit it in. You will need to go online to register so that they know to expect you and reserve a spot for you. Please do not disregard private schools if you are interested in going to a small school. If you are a good student, there is often enough grant money offered that the price becomes very comparable to public schools. We suggest that you make some visits when the college is in session so that you can really get a sense of what a school “feels” like. If open houses do not work for you, schools have some Saturdays available or you can take a prearranged visit on a regular school day.

**College Night at Blackhawk** - BHC is hosting a college fair on **September 26th** from 5:30 to 7:30 in the gym in building 3. This is a nice opportunity to get some basic information from schools and possibly learn something about schools that you were unaware of.

**College/tech school reps are currently visiting RHS** during 8th hour. This is suggested for juniors and seniors. Please listen to the announcements, look on the school website, or visit the counseling office to find out who is visiting. To attend a rep meeting, you will need to sign up in the counseling office or in English class.

**All students** - You can get great, basic college information from <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Robinson by phone or email if there are any academic or personal concerns that are affecting your student.