Senior Updates- 2022

Hannah Lennon

Staying up to date with all information on prom, graduation, and seniors will be posted on Rockvale’s High School webpage and twitter. Information regarding these topics are important when the school year is coming to an end. If you plan to go to college, knowing the deadlines for applications and contacting the school will prove you want to be involved and will also prepare you. Involving yourself in sports and clubs can give you a higher chance for scholarships if you stay dedicated. One student mentioned the highlight of their senior year was, “Getting more involved in things such as pep rallies." These times also create memories you will look back on and can even teach you how to be confident, gain more knowledge, and give more responsibility. I surveyed seniors and asked them what their advice would be for incoming freshmen: “Cherish every moment. I know everyone is going to tell you this, but these next 4 years are gonna go by in a heartbeat. I regret not taking pictures and videos to really capture those memories,” as one senior replied. Along with another student, “Make friends and keep them close and enjoy your moments of high school.”  
   
Scholarships play a big part for students who plan to go to college. The TN HOPE Lottery scholarships include a 3.0 GPA or 21 composite on the ACT and 4-year institutions up to 1,750 per full-time semester enrollment freshman and sophomore years with up to 2,250 per full-time semester enrollment junior and senior year. 2-year institutions up to 1,500 per full-time semester enrollment as a freshman and sophomore. Additional Awards are granted to students with higher GPA and test scores   
   
TN Promise include Last Dollar Scholarship for any high school TN graduate, a scholarship pays full tuition and mandatory fees for students at a qualifying TN two-year college or TN College of Applied Technology School, be sure to apply the FALL of your Senior year, Mandatory meetings, and 8 hours of community service and complete the FAFSA are required. UT PROMISE is a scholarship for qualifying TN residents attending UT campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin, and Memphis. It requires students to complete volunteer service hours and meet with a volunteer mentor each semester. To qualify for HOPE Lottery Scholarship and family household income is under 50,000 a year.  
​    
Students have the opportunity to take the SAT on their own time at national test sites and dates. SAT is not required for graduation in Rutherford Co. Your GPA (grade point average) is a key factor when applying for colleges and scholarships, and other post-secondary options. Keep up the great work, GPA still counts even in senior year! One response from the survey regarding upcoming seniors stated, “Go to school. Senioritis is a real thing, but this year really counts. Make the best of it and don’t rush it,” Researching each college and scholarship you are interested in can play a big part in being organized during senior year.  
    
Students who maintain the highest-grade point average for grades 9-12 and have taken a minimum of twelve honors or above honors level courses and meet all requirements for a student graduating with honors and a student graduating with distinction pursuant to the Tennessee Board of Education’s criteria. To graduate with honors the requirements of the ACT benchmarks include English: 18 Mathematics: 22 Reading: 22 Science: 23. This information can be issued with Rockvale’s Counseling department, while they for graduation, while also, help regarding grades, prom, graduation, ACT, recommendations and more. ACT and 23 specific credits are needed.  
   
To graduate with Distinction you must attain a 3.0 GPA and ONE of the following, Earn a nationally recognized industry certification Participate in at least One Governor’s Schools Participate in one of state’s All State musical organizations Earn statewide recognition or award at a skill or knowledge-based state tournament, convention, or competition hosted by a statewide student organization, and/or qualify for national recognition by a national student organization Be selected as a National Merit Finalist or Semi Finalist Attain a composite score of 31 or higher on the ACT Attain a score of three or higher on at least two Advanced Placement Exams Successfully complete the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programs Earn twelve or more semester hours of written postsecondary credit.   
  
The hardest challenges for seniors were: “Showing up”, “Finding motivation to go to school”, “Being here”, and “College related things such as the fafsa and applying to colleges.” Many students have different feelings about the best and worst things about being a senior, some consist of: “Going to school”, “Best thing would be knowing you're a senior and it’s your last year, nothing bad about being a senior”, “The best thing about being a senior would have to be the fact that we don’t have to do as much work. The worst thing about being a senior would have to be the realization that hits you. You’re going to be going into the real world soon and you really need to grow up", and “I get to graduate, I have to work at the time.”