Tips and Tricks

How to Prepare Yourself for Graduation

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9/20/21



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***Tip 1:*** Take the required courses, to get the needed amount of credits needed to graduate. If you finish off high school without the credits needed, you will not be allowed to graduate.

**Credits**

To graduate, 23 credits are required.

There are the basic classes: 4 credits for English, 4 in math, 3 in science, and 3 in social studies.

Others that are a must have: 1.5 credits in PE, 1 in fine arts, 3 in an elective focus, .5 in personal finance, lastly 2 credits in personal finance.

You also can do an additional elective to get 1 more credit

***Tip 2:*** Keep up with your classwork. If students in Rockvale get below 70, on a report card for their semester grade, they will be required to retake the class, to graduate.

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***Seniors***

This year is going to be your last year in high school. You need to put your plans into play, if you don’t have any, this is the time to really think about. What colleges do you need to go to, what are you going to study, how are you going to pay for everything?

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| COLLEGE APPILCATION & EXPLORATIONSeptember is the month for collage application in Tennessee. This month's goal is to educate people about how to prepare themselves for graduation. To research about their colleges, to know what they require, and when's their deadlines are. To encourage to apply to sed colleges. | SCHOLARSHIPSThere are many scholarships that could be granted to you. Getting them from academics to sports, etc. The TN Promise is well known and is currently open to apply. [Apply Here](https://www.tn.gov/tnpromise)There is the FAFSA opening October 1stTo view other availablescholarships,[click here.](https://4.files.edl.io/e08a/01/14/21/143247-06e0e087-1437-44bc-85a5-c04700b1cc14.docx) | ACT TEST DATESAct is sooner than you think. Starting October 19th ALL seniors will take them. Other national Test Dates Include: September 11th October 23rdDecember 11th February 12thApril 2ndJune 11thJuly 16th Get more info by clicking [here.](https://act.org/) |
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***Juniors***

The first GPA colleges use to make decisions for scholarships is your GPA at the end of your junior year. All 11th graders are required to take a free, official ACT test.

**Requirements to be Valedictorian/Salutorian**

* Students with the highest GPA for grades 9-12
* Taken 12 or more honors or above honors courses
* Graduates with honors
* Meet the qualified criteria by the end of their senior, first semester

**Scholarships**

Juniors should go ahead and start researching and applying for scholarships that they are eligible for. Other scholarships are offered senior year.

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