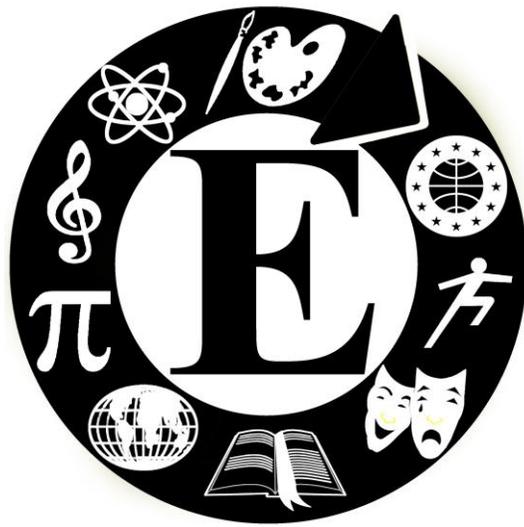


# COUNTDOWN TO GRADUATION CLASS OF 2017



A handbook for  
East Grand Rapids High School  
Seniors and their parents/guardians

## CALENDAR 2016-17

<b>SUMMER '16</b>	Schedule senior pictures <b>**October 7 deadline for yearbook pictures</b>
	Investigate possibilities for post-graduation, i.e. college, work, military, travel, etc.
<b>AUGUST 5</b>	Registration deadline for September 10, 2016 ACT
<b>AUGUST 27-28</b>	Senior Retreat – Camp Henry, Newaygo, MI
<b>AUGUST 24</b>	Senior Registration 8:00 – 10:00 AM Senior Red Schedule Changes
<b>SEPTEMBER 9</b>	First day college applications will be accepted in the Guidance Office
<b>SEPTEMBER 15</b>	Jump Start College Applications Night, 6:30 PM, Learning Commons
<b>SEPTEMBER 2</b>	Registration deadline for October 1, 2016 SAT and Subject Tests
<b>SEPTEMBER 10</b>	ACT testing date
<b>SEPTEMBER 16</b>	Registration deadline for October 22, 2016 ACT
<b>SEPTEMBER 27</b>	Jump Start College Applications Night, 6:30 PM, Learning Commons
<b>TBA</b>	Senior parent graduation meeting (meeting called by parents of class officers)
<b>OCTOBER 1</b>	SAT and Subject Test @ EGR
<b>OCTOBER 7</b>	Senior pictures and baby pictures due for the Yearbook
<b>OCTOBER 7</b>	Registration deadline for November 5, 2016 SAT
<b>OCTOBER 14</b>	Colleges with an early action or early decision deadline of November 1 must be entered into Family Connection
<b>OCTOBER 22</b>	ACT testing date @ EGR
<b>OCTOBER 28</b>	Recommended deadline to list colleges in Family Connection for colleges operating on a “rolling” admission system
<b>NOVEMBER 1</b>	Colleges with an early action or early decision deadline of November 15 must be entered into Family Connection
<b>NOVEMBER 4</b>	Registration Deadline for December 10, 2016 ACT
<b>NOVEMBER 5</b>	SAT and Subject Tests testing date @EGR

<b>NOVEMBER 4</b>	Registration Deadline for December 3, 2016 SAT
<b>NOVEMBER 14</b>	<i>Financial Aid Information Night</i> for Seniors and Parents 7:00 PM, Little Auditorium
<b>NOVEMBER 15</b>	Colleges with an application deadline of December 1 must be entered into Family Connection
<b>DECEMBER 3</b>	SAT and Subject Tests testing date @ EGR
<b>DECEMBER 2</b>	Colleges with an application deadline of January 1-15, 2017 must be entered into Family Connection
<b>DECEMBER 10</b>	ACT testing date @ EGR
<b>DECEMBER 23</b>	Registration Deadline for January 21, 2017 SAT
<b>JANUARY 13</b>	Deadline for February 11, 2017 ACT
<b>JANUARY 23</b>	SAT and Subject Tests (not @ EGR)
<b>FEBRUARY 11</b>	ACT Testing date (not @ EGR)
<b>FEBRUARY 10</b>	Registration Deadline for March 11, 2017 SAT
<b>MARCH 3</b>	Registration Deadline for April 8, 2017 ACT
<b>MARCH 11</b>	SAT and Subject Tests (not @ EGR)
<b>MARCH 27</b>	Academic Boosters' Awards Program, 7:30 PM, in PAC
<b>APRIL 1</b>	Colleges on "deadline" admissions notify applicants of their admission decision
<b>APRIL 8</b>	ACT Testing Date (not @ EGR)
<b>APRIL 7</b>	Registration Deadline for May 6, 2017 SAT
<b>MAY 5</b>	Deadline for providing Guidance Office with copies of letters offering scholarships and/or awards for inclusion in honors assembly and graduation program
<b>MAY 1</b>	<i>Candidate's Reply Date</i> —The deadline for students to reply to the college of their choice
<b>MAY 1</b>	AP Psychology 12:00 PM
<b>MAY 2</b>	AP Spanish Language 8:00 AM; Physics 2 12:00 PM
<b>MAY 3</b>	AP English Literature 8:00 AM; Physics 1 12:00 PM

<b>MAY 4</b>	AP Government 8:00 AM
<b>MAY 5</b>	Registration Deadline for June 3, 2017 SAT
<b>MAY 5</b>	Registration Deadline for June 10, 2017 ACT
<b>MAY 5</b>	AP US History 8:00 AM
<b>MAY 6</b>	SAT and Subject Tests testing date @ EGR
<b>MAY 8</b>	AP Biology 8:00 AM; AP Physics C 12:00 PM
<b>MAY 9</b>	AP Calc AB/BC 8:00 AM
<b>MAY 10</b>	AP English Lang and Comp 8:00 AM AP Macroeconomics at 12:00 PM
<b>MAY 11</b>	AP World History 8:00 AM; AP Statistics 12:00 PM
<b>MAY 12</b>	AP Microeconomics 8:00 AM
<b>MAY 13</b>	Junior/Senior Prom 9:00-11:30 PM
<b>MAY 19</b>	Honors Assembly 9:00 AM
<b>MAY 22-23</b>	Senior exam dates
<b>MAY 23</b>	Last day of regular classes for seniors
<b>MAY 24</b>	Lockers decorations, Senior Breakfast, Video, Graduation Practice
<b>MAY 25</b>	Graduation at 7:00 PM followed by the graduation party

# YEARBOOK PICTURES

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## I. SENIOR PICTURES

Seniors are responsible for submitting a picture to the yearbook. In the past, families have chosen either a photography studio or a friend to take the picture. **The yearbook guidelines are: one wallet size vertical, color photograph to be submitted to the yearbook by October 7, 2016.** Consult past yearbooks to consider the type of pose, clothing, etc. that you would like for yourself. Many studios send out notices of “early bird” discounts that can help keep the price down. In deciding how many pictures to order, you might keep in mind some other uses for them: relatives and friends, college applications, scholarship applications, athletic interest letters and awards.

## 2. BABY PICTURES

Seniors’ baby pictures are solicited for a separate section of the yearbook. If you want a baby photo included, you must submit a current photo that is different from your senior picture with a check for \$35, payable to EGR High School. These pictures are optional and may be submitted in any size. The deadline for submission is October 7, 2016.

## DUAL ENROLLMENT

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State law requires that school districts allow eligible students to enroll in college courses at local accredited colleges and support their enrollment by paying a portion of the school’s foundation grant from the state toward the college tuition. Any student interested in the possibility of enrolling in college courses during their senior year should discuss this with the Guidance Office.

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

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► **The Guidance Office will begin processing applications on Friday, September 9, 2016.**

► We will continue to utilize **Family Connection**, a service designed especially for students and families. Family Connection is a comprehensive website that you can use to research colleges and careers, electronically request transcripts for college applications, request teacher recommendations from your teachers, and manage your college applications. Family Connection is linked with Naviance Succeed™, a service that we use in our guidance office to track and analyze data about college and career plans,

so it provides up-to-date information that is specific to our school. Family Connection will allow you to:

- **Research careers** – Research hundreds of careers and career clusters, and take career assessments like the Do What You Are® test.
- **Research colleges** – Compare GPA, standardized test scores, and other statistics to actual historical data from our school for students who have applied and been admitted in the past.
- **Request Transcripts and Teacher Recommendations** – Family Connection enables each student to electronically request transcripts and teacher recommendations for all of the colleges and universities to which they apply.
- **Track College Applications** – Track the sending and receipt of transcripts and teacher recommendations, as well as the application status, manage timelines and deadlines for making decisions about colleges.

Family Connection also lets us share information with you about upcoming meetings and events, scholarship opportunities, and other resources for college and career information. To visit our school's Family Connection site, use your browser to connect to: <http://connection.naviance.com/egrhs>. The student will use **his/her Skyward Student Access username and password to access Family Connection**. The parent/guardian also has access to Family Connection; however, they have their own user name and password different than the student's. If you have not already done so, please make sure the student enters a **valid email address** so that the school can communicate to him/her important information regarding college applications, testing, and critical deadlines.

All transcript requests and teacher recommendation requests must be electronically submitted through Family Connection; however, students will NOT apply to college(s) through Family Connection. We have created a short instructional document which outlines the steps you will need to take to sign up for the Common Application, to request transcripts, and teacher recommendations through Family Connection. This instructional document is located on the high school guidance website at <http://egrhs.egrps.org/documents/Guidance/CommonApp/16-17%20Family%20Connect%20Student%20Intro%20Letter%20EGRHS.pdf>. It is critical that you and your student review this document prior to applying to college.

► Each senior must pay a \$10.00 College Application Process fee at registration on August 24, 2016. This fee covers the cost of sending and managing the student's transcript and associated documents to the colleges. It also allows the Guidance Office to track the application and receive notification that the application has arrived at the college. **Transcripts will not be processed until the College Application Process fee has been paid.** In January, the Guidance Office automatically sends the student's seventh

semester grades to all the colleges where admission is pending. In June, a final transcript is sent to the college the student has elected to attend.

▶ The Guidance Office will process completed and electronically submit them after they are listed under “Colleges I am Applying to” in Family Connection. Students should enter these a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to any application deadline.

▶ Most college applications require an application fee, which can range from \$20 to as high as \$75 per application. Colleges will waive this fee if financial need is shown. Students might want to discuss this with their counselor.

▶ Many colleges accept the Common Application. A copy of the Common Application and information regarding any supplements requested by specific colleges may be downloaded from <http://www.commonapp.org>.

▶ The Common Application for the Class of 2017 is currently live. A new feature allows the applications to “roll over” into the next cycle, as long as the student indicates it is for the 2016-17 application cycle.

# NATIONAL TESTING OPTIONS AND TEST DATES

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## 1. SAT

The SAT consists of critical reading, math, and writing sections and takes three hours and forty-five minutes. The test is administered seven times per year at test centers around the country and the world. Nearly all selective colleges and universities require this test or the ACT as a part of the admissions decision. Seniors who have not taken the SAT, or those who wish to retake the test, may do so on October 1, November 5, or December 3, 2016 (@ EGR). Registration must be completed no later than September 2, October 7, or November 4, 2015, respectively. Register online at [www.sat.collegboard.com](http://www.sat.collegboard.com).

## 2. SUBJECT TESTS

These are one-hour tests measuring specific achievement in 23 subject areas such as world language, mathematics, science, and history. Selective colleges may require Subject Tests in addition to the SAT. If required, most colleges ask for two or three tests of the student's choosing. It is advisable to check college websites for any specific requirements. **Students may take only the SAT or Subject Tests on any given test date.** Students may take up to three Subject Tests on October 1, November 5, or December 3, 2016. Seniors applying to any college on an *early decision* or *early action* plan are advised to take Subject Tests no later than November 1, 2016. Register online at [www.sat.collegboard.com](http://www.sat.collegboard.com).

## 3. ACT

The ACT is a college admissions test administered five times per year in test centers throughout the country. Colleges usually require that students submit scores directly from the ACT or the SAT as a part of the college admissions process. The test consists of four required sections — English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning — and an optional writing section. Students receive a score for each section, a composite score ranging from 1 to 36, and a separate writing score if applicable. Seniors who have not taken the ACT, or those who wish to retake the test, may do so on September 10 (not @ EGR), October 22 (@ EGR) or December 10, 2016 (@ EGR). Registration packets must be completed no later than August 5, September 16 or November 4, 2016, respectively. Register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

## 4. ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Advanced Placement Examinations are available in May each year for students who have just completed specific Advanced Placement courses. East Grand Rapids High School offers specific AP courses in United States History, United States Government and Politics, World History, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Spanish Language,

Physics, Statistics, Biology, Calculus, Psychology, English Literature, and English Language. AP exams are not required for college admissions, but are often used for college credit or for placement in advanced courses upon admission to college. Colleges will look favorably on strong results on AP exams, but students are not penalized if they have not taken them. **Students are advised to check with the colleges to which they may seek admission for specific information on how Advanced Placement credits may be applied.** Students at East will have an opportunity to take AP exams May 1-12, 2017. Each of these tests costs approximately \$100. Students will register and pay for the AP exams on-line through Total Registration. Information regarding the registration dates and process will be provided to students in February.

## **SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES**

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In the past several years, many online scholarship search companies have sprung up around the country; however, college financial aid administrators and high school guidance counselors are largely distrustful of these companies. Why?

Most search companies are run by people who have little or no experience with or knowledge of financial aid. These companies tend to charge a lot of money (between \$45 and \$200) for information that can be found free of charge in libraries, guidance offices, bookstores, colleges, and on the Internet. In addition, search companies simply provide a list of scholarships for which you **may** be eligible, but for which you still must apply.

Furthermore some of the scholarships they list are federal or state programs, which are available to you once you are determined eligible for need-based financial aid.

Beware of official looking, even federal government-looking mailings. Some of these companies are great at marketing!

Ask these questions before signing up:

- Is the company for profit?
- Is the company a franchise?
- How much experience does this person have in financial aid?
- Can I believe their guarantee?
- How complete will the information I receive be?
- Does the company have a list of past clients I can contact?
- Do I need to spend money to receive this information?

**When in Doubt, ask the EGR Guidance Department**

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION**

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Twenty-three credits, with specific departmental distribution, are required to graduate from East Grand Rapids High School. Students are continually reminded by their counselor that they need to be aware of the number of credits they have and what specific requirements they must complete prior to graduation.

It is a good idea to check the credit area on students' report cards periodically. There you will find the total number of credits the student has earned to date. If there is a discrepancy in the number of credits you believe your student has earned, call your student's counselor. Be proactive.

The school operates with the following policy regarding who can and cannot "walk" at commencement.

*"Students lacking **not more than one credit** at graduation time will be permitted to participate in commencement exercises, provided they have a plan to complete the necessary credit. However, the diploma will be withheld until all graduation requirements have been fulfilled."*

Be aware that this policy means that counselors will closely monitor students until commencement. Only those who have at least twenty-three (23) credits will be allowed to participate in commencement.

Again, **be proactive**. Know how many credits your son or daughter has and what course requirements are remaining for his/her graduation to be realized.

## **HONORS ASSEMBLY**

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The annual Honors Assembly will be held on May 19, 2017 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM to honor all seniors and recipients of special awards and scholarships. All seniors will be expected to attend, and parents of seniors are invited.

Please provide the Guidance Office with copies of letters offering scholarships and/or awards for inclusion in honors assembly and graduation program by no later than May 5, 2017.

# GRADUATION-RELATED TOPICS

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## 1. Cap, Gown, Stole, Tassel, Etc.

Jostens has been chosen by the school to sell graduation items. They visit the school in December to distribute and explain their catalog to seniors. Orders are then taken in January with delivery to the school in mid-April. The cap, gown, stole, and tassel must be ordered through Jostens. The 2017 price will be approximately \$40. Measurements will be taken when the order is placed. **Be sure to try on the cap and gown when it is received to check the fit! It must be sent back immediately if a replacement is needed for the ceremony.** In recent years students choose either gold or blue for their gowns. Students are seated in rows according to the color of the gown they choose. Solid, light colored dresses look best under gold gowns. Bobby pins are normally needed to hold on the caps. **Hang on to your tassel and stole.** They are easily lost or misplaced. *Announcements, mugs, open house invitations, thank you notes, etc. can also be ordered from Jostens at the same time.*

## 2. College Scholarships Earned by Graduates

A listing of college scholarships and special awards earned by graduating seniors is included as a segment of the Honors Assembly program. Scholarships and awards are included, provided a copy of the award notification **is presented to the Guidance Office by May 5, 2017.** Awards, grants, or scholarships, which are part of a financial aid package, based on demonstrated financial need, are **not** included in this listing.

## 3. Commencement Ceremonies

Graduation is held in the football stadium or the gym, depending on weather conditions. In either case, there are no ticket requirements or number restrictions. Older guests and those in need of special seating or parking should call the main office at least one week in advance. The principal will send a letter in early May, outlining the dress and behavior codes. The speaker is the senior class president.

## 4. Top Ten

Two different recognitions are given each spring to the top students in the senior class. At the Academic Boosters' Awards Program in March, the **top fifteen** students based on **cumulative weighted** grade point averages through the **seventh** semester are recognized. At commencement a **Top Ten** is named recognizing the ten students with the highest **cumulative weighted** grade point averages through the **eighth and final** semester of school.

## **PARTY Sponsored by Parents of Seniors**

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An all-night party after commencement for all graduating seniors is organized and chaperoned by parent volunteers. The parents of the senior class president plan this party.

Parental involvement is needed for the Graduation Party to occur. For planning purposes, you might like to know that the cost for the 2016 Graduation Party was approximately \$125. Students who seek financial assistance to participate in these activities should speak with Carolynne Allaben in the Guidance Office.