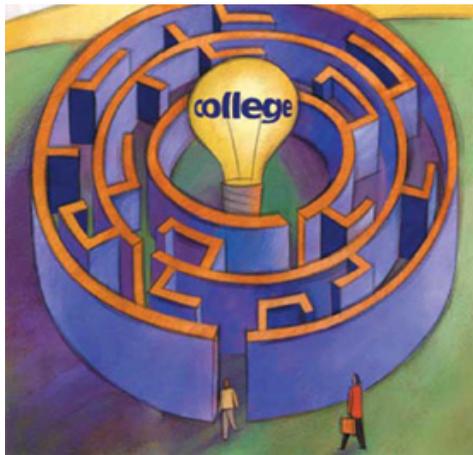


# REACH HIGH SCHOLARS PROGRAM



Control Your Destiny

[www.ReachHighScholars.org](http://www.ReachHighScholars.org)

## What is the Reach High Scholars Program?

The Reach High Scholars Program creates a community of students, parents, teachers, administrators, alumni and other supporters to provide inspiration, opportunities, knowledge and strategies for students to reach higher in their educational pursuits than they otherwise would have imagined possible. It enables all interested students to take control of their academic destiny by providing opportunities and resources to students and parents.

Reach High Scholars Program currently offers:

- A weekly Reach High Scholars Club meeting held at the High School each Monday after school, in Ms. Doyle's room
- A website, [www.reachhighscholars.org](http://www.reachhighscholars.org), which is full of information on colleges and summer enrichment programs and preparing for visiting, applying to and paying for colleges
- Organized visits for RHS students to several colleges and universities within a one or two-day drive from Raymond and contributing a portion of the transportation expenses
- Help with selecting and applying to boarding summer enrichment programs at top educational institutions, as well as "Raymond Roundtables", an enrichment program conducted

by Phillips Exeter Academy, held at the Middle School in July for 7th, 8th and 9th grade students

- College preparation help including PSAT and SAT prep classes conducted by Academic Approach, a national leader in test preparation, coaching on college essay writing and college interviews, and assistance with the college selection, application and financial aid process.

## What Reach High Scholars Program is Not

Participation in the Reach High Scholars Program's activities does not guarantee acceptance into highly competitive colleges, or receipt of significant aid. It's your hard work, dedication and drive that will lead to good outcomes.

## Who Should Participate?

Any high school student determined to make him or herself an attractive, even sought-after candidate to the best colleges with the most financial aid to offer.

## What's in it for me?

While the college admission process can seem like the far-off future to incoming freshmen, there are several important steps you as a student can take during each of the four years you are at Raymond High School to position yourself for admission at some of the best colleges in the nation.

Here are some the important steps you should be taking each year:

## Freshmen

- Taking the most challenging, high-level classes for which you qualify to enroll. Take as many Honors Classes as you can – and do well in them!
- Take advantage of the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS) to take classes not otherwise available to you at Raymond High School.
- Read and write as much as you can. This will help you improve your reading comprehension, writing skills and vocabulary. Read books, magazines, newspapers, keep a journal.
- Be active in school activities, sports, music, and/or volunteer in your community.
- Participate in Raymond Roundtables or a boarding summer program between Freshman and Sophomore year.

## Sophomores

- Continue to enroll in challenging classes (Honors if you qualify) and excelling in them.
- Attend the three-week Boot Camp in the fall and take the PSAT test.
- Take SAT Subject Tests in the spring for any Honors course in which you did well in your Sophomore year. It's always best to take an SAT Subject test when you have freshly finished a class.

- Participate in a boarding summer enrichment program (Brown, Phillips Exeter).
- Start planning for and going on some college visits during the winter and spring.

## Juniors

- Enroll in AP (Advanced Placement) History and/or AP Biology, if you qualify. AP Exam scores are exceptionally important criteria for college admissions. Take the AP History and/or Biology Exam(s) and score at least a 4.
- Continue to enroll in Honors-level classes.
- Take the PSAT test in October.
- Attend SAT Boot Camp.
- Take the SAT Test & SAT Subject Tests.
- Visit as many colleges as you possibly can. Take advantage of school vacations and summer break. Raymond High School allows students to miss school days for college visits without negative repercussions.
- Attend College Fairs – Phillips Exeter has them in October & April of each year, and it allows Reach High Scholars Club members to attend.
- Attend Another Summer Program: The Advanced Studies Program at St. Paul's is a five-week program for rising seniors and is highly regarded by admissions offices. It offers a class on

college application essay writing that is invaluable.

## Seniors

- Enroll in as many AP or Honors classes as you qualify for, and take the AP Exam for each. Remember, even though you'll be accepted into college by the time you finish these courses, some colleges offer college credit depending on exam scores.
- Take the SAT test again in the fall. Taking the test a second (or even third time) can result in improved performance.
- Take SAT Subject tests (or take them again if your scores need improving).
- Attend Phillips Exeter Academy and UNH College Fairs in October.
- Apply to colleges, schedule college interviews.
- Begin the financial aid application process

## What RHSP can help with

- Preparation for SAT and Subject Tests
- Selecting and applying to realistic colleges
- Scheduling college interviews
- Assistance with the financial aid application procedure
- Assistance with application process for summer programs

- Keeping you on-track with your high school course selections
- College interview coaching – how to “market yourself” to colleges
- College admission essay writing coaching
- Putting together meaningful college “road trips” to select, competitive colleges within the Northeast
- Assistance with transportation costs for college visits
- Participation in the Phillips Exeter College Fair in April

## A Special Message for Parents: It's a Whole New World Out There!

All of the steps listed in this brochure are pieces of a puzzle that fit together and, with dedication and a lot hard work, can result in your student positioning him or herself as an attractive, sought-after candidate to some of the most highly competitive colleges and universities in the country. Many of these are located within a day's drive of Raymond!

Your role in this process cannot be stressed enough. From encouraging your student to enroll in the most challenging classes possible, to keeping tabs on their homework, test preparation and grades, to college visits and applications, you play a key role in keeping your child “on track” throughout high

school. Please take the time to review the contents of this brochure and our website, [www.reachhighscholars.org](http://www.reachhighscholars.org), so that you understand what a challenging and involved undertaking preparing for college is.

## We Need Your Help!

As the Reach High Scholars Program is a strictly volunteer organization, we also need your help. While the school does provide us with a meeting room, the program is not affiliated with, run by nor funded by the school. We need volunteer parents to help with our various initiatives, to keep the program running strong. You can assist by volunteering for one of our many committees, like fundraising, public relations, college trip coordination, or by simply offering to fill your car with other students when taking your child on a local college visit.

Please contact any of the following Reach High Scholars Program Board Members (and fellow Raymond parents) for more information on how you can help your student in particular, and the Reach High Scholars Program participants in general, become the best college candidates they can be:

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