

1st Quarter Honor Roll

4.0 GPA

Charlotte Anderson

3.5- 3.9 GPA

Kalena Blackman
Summyr Butts
Ashley Giffin
Holly Harlin
Shanae Jones
Nancy Ochieng
Raid Salgado

Travis Stroud
Wahlia Walker
Kaylyn Walls
Chance Ward

3.0-3.4 GPA

Jonathan Grams
Annetta Hartman
Raquel Martinez
Lucas Shafer
Bailey Springirth
Rachel Staley
Chaz Ward



Regional Math Science Center

Frostburg State University

Winter 2010 Edition

NEWS

How do I prepare for a college visit?

College visits are not a mere 'road-trip'. In order to get the most out of your visit, you should do a little research on the college before you head out. Visit their website and browse the course catalog and prospective student information. Compile a list of questions to ask the admissions staff, tour guides and professors. Look at your major of interest and find professors instructing classes you may be interested in taking. Feel free to contact professors and ask questions about the major or classes you would be taking. You can even schedule a meeting to talk to a professor in person when you visit the college.

Make a list of "what is important" to you. This should be college characteristics that you feel are most important for you to succeed. What majors should a college offer? What type of dormitory environment would you be most comfortable in? Do you enjoy large or small class sizes? What student organizations are you interested in joining? Take this list along when you visit colleges. After a few visits you may want to add or change some things on this list.

In order to keep your college visits straight it is a good idea to take your list of questions and your list of "what is important" with you on each visit. On these pieces of paper you can jot down notes about what you see on this campus that appeals to you as well as the answers to your questions. It's also a good idea to bring a camera. Pictures will help keep those colleges from all blurring together over the next year or so. You can share what you see with family and friends and you can compare college visits later down the road.



Students attended a brief presentation by the UMES Admissions Office before touring the campus with current UMES students.

If we all did the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves.

~Thomas Alva Edison

RMSC Quarterly Deadlines

Quarter Two	February 2
Quarter Three	April 13
Quarter Four	August 12



Shanae, Belmont, Peyton and Jade form this RMSC student skate line.

Recruiting Students

Do you know someone who would benefit from the RMSC experience? Applications are available for new students. Visit our website, or call us and we will mail an application that you can share.



Raquel and Wahlia taking a break off the ice.

FSU is committed to making all of its programs, services and activities accessible to persons with disabilities. To request accommodations through the ADA Compliance Office, call 301-687-4102 or use a Voice Relay Operator at 1-800-735-2258.

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Don't Waste that Senior Year!

There seems to be a disturbing trend developing among high school students. Many are wasting their High School Senior Year! For some reason, students are under the impression that it is okay to only take that one English class during the senior year because "that's the only class I need to graduate."

Well, if graduating from High School is your only goal then that may be fine, but it is our hope that students have higher ambitions, and should therefore NOT WASTE that SENIOR YEAR! Students should look upon high school as a FREE means of preparing them for college and for life. Taking challenging classes ALL FOUR years prepares students for rigorous college courses. A college education is NOT FREE, so the better prepared you are the more likely the money you pay for college will be well spent on furthering your education, not on taking classes you could have taken for FREE in high school. In addition to this being financially responsible it also shows colleges, universities and future employers that you are serious about your education. College is not easy, so the more you prepare yourself while in high school the better off you will be.

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Fall 2010 Events: College Visits & Skating Trip

This fall the RMSC offered two college exploration trips. This spring, more trips will be offered to Juniors and Sophomores. For our first trip, an overnight trip, a group of Seniors and Juniors explored two rural colleges on the Eastern Shore (the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Salisbury University) and a large urban college near Baltimore (Towson University). Here's what our students had to say about this trip:

Wahlia Walker- "Salisbury was amazing. I am actually finishing my college application there this weekend. I will go on every college trip we have because Salisbury wasn't even on my list of colleges to go to! So much changes after one visit."



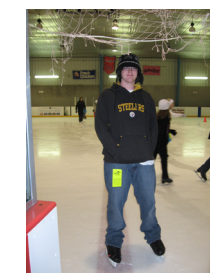
Charlotte, Megan, Wahlia, Belmont, Kaylyn and Darren visiting the Salisbury campus.

Charlotte Anderson- "Visiting colleges is very beneficial. You get a better feel for that college's atmosphere. It might even help you make your final decision on which college you would prefer to attend. When we visited Towson's open house they divided us into groups of potential majors. I received more detailed information than I would have received looking at the website".

For our second trip, students spent Election Day ice skating and visiting Hood College. Nineteen RMSC students took to the ice, some gracing us with their skills and some learning the sport through the process of trial and error. A lesson was provided for those needing ice skating instruction. After a couple of chilling hours, students visited Hood College. Hood College students led tours and an Admissions counselor talked to the group about what Hood has to offer as well as the admission requirements for this college.



Annetta and Rachel warming up.



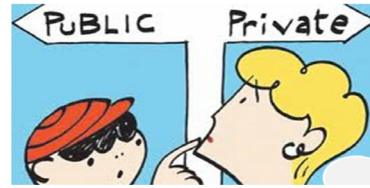
Chance Ward- "Our ice skating trip not only served as a way for us to reunite with our peers but also opened up new opportunities. Someone who may have never thought of doing something as eccentric as ice skating may now find it as something fun."

Cody making this skating stuff look simple!

Public In-State vs Public Out-of-State vs Private: What type of school should I attend?

Understanding the differences between these types of schools, especially in terms of cost, is important as you explore and select your college of choice.

Public colleges are primarily supported by state funds so when you attend a public college or university in your own state - a **Public In-State** school - your **tuition costs are typically lower than** if you attend a **Public Out-of-State or Private** school. Tuition for students attending public colleges out-of-state can be \$10,000 per year higher than for those students attending public colleges in their own state. For example, tuition for a MD resident attending Frostburg State University in 2010-2011 is \$5,150 while a non-Maryland resident will pay \$15,196; similarly, at West Virginia University in-state tuition, that is for WV residents, is \$5,406 while out-of-state tuition is \$17,002.



Private colleges and universities are supported by tuition, endowments and donations and the tuition does not depend on whether or not you are an in-state resident. While most private schools do offer financial assistance to most of their students the tuitions are still quite high compared to public in-state institutions. **Private tuitions** are often quite **similar to public out-of-state tuitions**. For example, tuition at Hood College is \$37,610. A student receiving \$20,000 in financial assistance to attend Hood is still paying \$17,610 per year just for tuition.

While cost should not be the only factor you consider when selecting your college, you definitely need to understand how much your college education is going to cost you before you decide. When developing your list of colleges of interest you want to keep your options open. Explore a variety of schools and visit those that interest you. (RMSC will be planning college visits to help you get to see some of the MD schools, both public and private). When you are ready to make your final decision you should consider the academic offerings of the school, the “feel” of the school and also cost. While taking out loans to pay for college is often an option, you don’t want to start your career thousands of dollars in debt, especially if you can get a similar education without the debt. Look carefully at those financial aid award letters when they come and call us if you need help interpreting them.

Why should I visit colleges?

How do you know if a college is right for you? Students can develop a mental picture of what they think a particular college may be like, but you can only learn so much from brochures, catalogs and what others tell you. A college visit will help you get a “feel” for what that college may be like and how comfortable you will be attending that college.

Campus visits offer you an opportunity to get answers to your questions directly from the college admissions and financial aid officers. You can find out more about class sizes, professors’ qualifications, majors, and the campus student diversity. Many colleges offer tours led by students where you can get the inside scoop on what campus dining is like, which dorms are preferred by students, and information about the social scene and campus events. As you walk around you will get a sense of whether or not you feel comfortable on that campus.

Students should visit a variety of campuses and take the time to explore a few colleges that may not have made it onto your top 10 list. As you explore campuses and discover what they have to offer you will be able to refine your list of “what is important in a college campus”. *See the article on the back page for more details.*

Test Deadlines

Test fee waivers are available for SAT and ACT exams. Please contact our office **at least a week in advance** of the registration deadline for assistance using a waiver. Juniors should take the SAT this spring and again in the fall of their Senior year to improve scores.

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Test
Jan 22	Dec 23 *	SAT
Feb 12	Jan 7	ACT
Mar 12	Feb 11	SAT
Apr 9	Mar 4	ACT
May 7	Apr 8	SAT
Jun 4	May 6	SAT
Jun 11	May 6	ACT

**the RMSC is closed Dec 18-Jan 2. Please contact our office early to ensure we can assist you with a waiver.*

More college visits are coming in the Spring for Juniors and Sophmores. Start researching your colleges of interest!

(See Page 4 to learn how to prepare.)



Attention Seniors!

Saving Money: Tips for buying your college textbooks

College expenses do not end with paying tuition, room and board. The national average for purchasing textbooks for the 2010-11 year at four-year public colleges is \$1,137. Some students may have this expense covered by their financial or merit aid monies. Other students will need to come up with money to pay for these resources each school year. Textbook purchase should not be taken lightly. You can save a lot of money if you take the time to do a little comparative shopping before your semester begins.

Campus bookstores can be rather pricey; however, this is a good place to begin your comparative shopping. You will need to find out what texts the classes you registered to take require. The campus bookstore should have your book requirements, if not you may need to get this information from your professors. Here is the information you need to get for each textbook: 1) title and volume/edition, 2) author, 3) the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) found near the bar code, and 4) the price of a new, used or rented copy.

Next, search the internet for your textbooks. You can buy new and used copies at discounts prices, and in many cases lower than your campus bookstore’s price. You will need the book’s ISBN number. Enter the ISBN number (without the dashes) in the search box of a search engine, such as Google. This will give you the search results of stores selling this book. Or, you can directly search for textbooks in online stores like amazon.com, half.com, and chegg.com. Make sure to verify the book title, edition and author you have recorded to ensure you have the right book before making a purchase! Also consider shipping time. It is best to allow at least 2 weeks for shipping. This is not something you should do the first week of classes.

Also, before you purchase your text, talk with your professors. College textbooks are frequently updated, so within a few years there may be several editions of the text out on the market. Ask your professors if previous editions will be compatible in their class. You can save a lot if you can use an earlier edition of a text. For example the list price for a new copy of the Campbell Biology text, 9th edition is \$202.87; however, you can get a used 8th edition for \$44.86 on amazon.com. In some cases, different editions have relatively minor changes and some professors may prefer to use an older edition to teach the class. It is definitely worth checking!

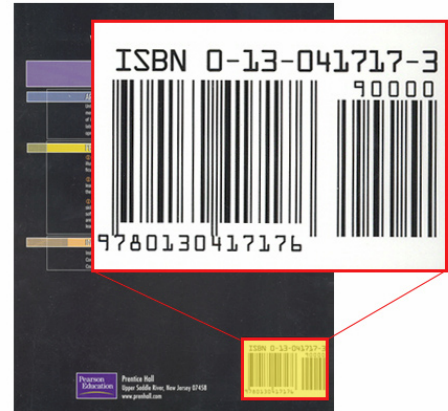
In addition, some campus and public libraries may have copies of textbooks that you can check out for the entire semester at no cost. Some online and campus bookstores also offer “Rent” options where you return the book at the end of the semester. The downside to these options are that you will not be able to take notes or highlight in these textbooks and you will not have the option to keep these books for your reference shelf. It is beneficial to keep some of your textbooks for references, especially in your major classes. They can be a valuable resource in later classes.

Deadlines are coming!

Seniors, be sure to be marking your calendars and keeping a close watch on college application deadlines. Keep copies of all submitted applications for your own records.

Also, you can submit your FAFSA after January 1, so start gathering all the information you need. Many priority financial aid deadlines are in February, so get those FAFSAs in earlier than the March 1 deadline!

You will start receiving college acceptance and financial aid awards letters in the early spring. You can use these letters to compare college offers and make your final decision. Pay attention to deadlines given in these award notices. Please contact our office if you need assistance.



*You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.
You’re on your own.
And you know what you know.
You are the guy who’ll decide where to go.*

~Dr. Seuss

