



RAINEY DAY RISING SCHOLARS

STUDENT & FAMILY WELCOME PACKET

Your guide to starting strong



FOUNDING PILOT COHORT

Potential recognized. Relationships built. Futures made more navigable.

Program Year: _____

WELCOME

You belong in this room.

Your academic achievement opened the door. Your curiosity, effort, voice, and goals will shape what happens next.

Welcome to the Rainey Day Rising Scholars Program. You are joining a small founding cohort created to help academically promising students move from possibility to a clear, supported plan for college and life after high school.

You do not need to have every answer. You do need to participate, ask questions, communicate honestly, and remain open to support. Our role is to make the college journey easier to understand and less isolating for both students and families.

OUR PROMISE

We will notice your strengths, respect your goals, provide practical guidance, and connect you with people and resources that can help you move forward.

Your program contacts

Program coordinator	[NAME] [EMAIL] [PHONE]
College-readiness advisor	[NAME] [EMAIL] [PHONE]
General questions	info@raineydayscholars.org 855-367-3331
Student portal	RaineyDayScholars.org/portal/login?role=student

GETTING STARTED

Your first 30 days

Everyone begins together so students, families, mentors, and staff share the same expectations.

1. **Confirm your place:** Return required forms and confirm that you intend to participate for the full program year.
2. **Attend orientation:** Students and a parent or guardian review expectations, communication, safety, workshops, and portal access.
3. **Complete your starting profile:** Tell us about your goals, interests, strengths, questions, and the support you want most.
4. **Meet your mentor:** Participate in a staff-supported introduction and agree on a realistic communication schedule.
5. **Build your first plan:** Choose three priorities and add the first deadlines, workshops, and action items to your dashboard.

Orientation checklist

- ☐ Student participation agreement completed
- ☐ Parent/guardian consent and emergency contacts confirmed
- ☐ Student portal login tested
- ☐ Workshop calendar saved
- ☐ Mentor introduction completed
- ☐ First student-mentor meeting scheduled
- ☐ College-readiness starting assessment completed

BRING TO ORIENTATION

Your questions, your schedule, and your goals. Do not bring Social Security cards, tax records, transcripts, or other sensitive documents unless staff specifically provides a secure process.

SHARED EXPECTATIONS

How we show up for one another

Students agree to

- Attend required orientations and workshops, arriving prepared and on time.
- Respond to staff and mentor messages within two business days whenever possible.
- Meet with the assigned mentor consistently and communicate early when plans change.
- Use respectful language, protect other students' privacy, and participate without disrupting others.
- Complete agreed college-readiness tasks and ask for help before a deadline becomes a crisis.
- Tell staff promptly about any concern involving safety, boundaries, communication, or the mentor relationship.

Families help by

- Keeping contact information current and reviewing program communications.
- Supporting attendance, transportation planning, and completion of required forms.
- Encouraging the student to take ownership without expecting perfection.
- Contacting program staff—not the mentor alone—about significant concerns or changes.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The pilot is intentionally small. If a student repeatedly misses activities or stops communicating, staff will meet with the family to decide whether the seat should remain active.

MENTORING

A guide beside you—not someone making decisions for you

Your mentor is a screened and trained volunteer who will listen, encourage, ask thoughtful questions, and help you stay connected to your goals. Mentors do not replace parents, school counselors, teachers, therapists, attorneys, financial-aid professionals, or program staff.

Your mentor may	Help set goals; discuss college and careers; practice professional communication; review plans; celebrate progress; help prepare questions.
Your mentor may not	Promise admission or money; provide therapy or legal advice; keep safety concerns secret; lend or borrow money; make major decisions for you.
Your role	Be honest, prepared, respectful, and willing to communicate when something is not working.
Staff role	Support the match, monitor progress, answer questions, and address concerns or changes.

A good meeting can include

- A personal check-in and one recent win
- Review of goals, deadlines, or workshop learning
- One challenge to think through together
- One specific action before the next meeting
- The date and focus of the next contact

IF SOMETHING FEELS WRONG

Pause the conversation and contact the program coordinator. You will not be penalized for raising a concern or requesting support with the match.

COLLEGE READINESS

Your toolkit and workshop roadmap

Your student portal

- College and scholarship trackers
- Deadlines and reminders
- Workshop registration and attendance
- Reference-letter request tools
- Mentor and staff information
- College-prep resources and action steps

Core workshop experiences

Paying for College	Financial aid, scholarships, costs, and questions families should ask.
Choosing the Right School	Fit, affordability, academic options, culture, and support.
Campus Safety	Awareness, resources, consent, reporting, and personal planning.
Time Management	Calendars, priorities, deadlines, and sustainable routines.
Emotional Intelligence	Self-awareness, communication, resilience, and relationships.
Greek Life	Purpose, benefits, responsibilities, costs, safety, and informed choices.

WORKSHOP EXPECTATION

Students should attend every required session unless excused in advance. Families will receive the final calendar and reminder instructions before launch.

MAKE IT YOURS

My Rising Scholars starting plan

THE FUTURE I AM CURRENTLY CONSIDERING

THREE THINGS I WANT HELP UNDERSTANDING

ONE STRENGTH I WILL BRING TO THIS COHORT

MY FIRST THREE ACTION STEPS

Student orientation

[DATE / TIME / LOCATION]

Family orientation

[DATE / TIME / LOCATION]

First workshop

[DATE / TIME / LOCATION]

Program coordinator

[NAME / EMAIL / PHONE]

REMEMBER

You were invited because someone recognized your potential. This program is here to help you turn that potential into choices, preparation, and momentum.