

Senior Success Strategies

Class of 2022

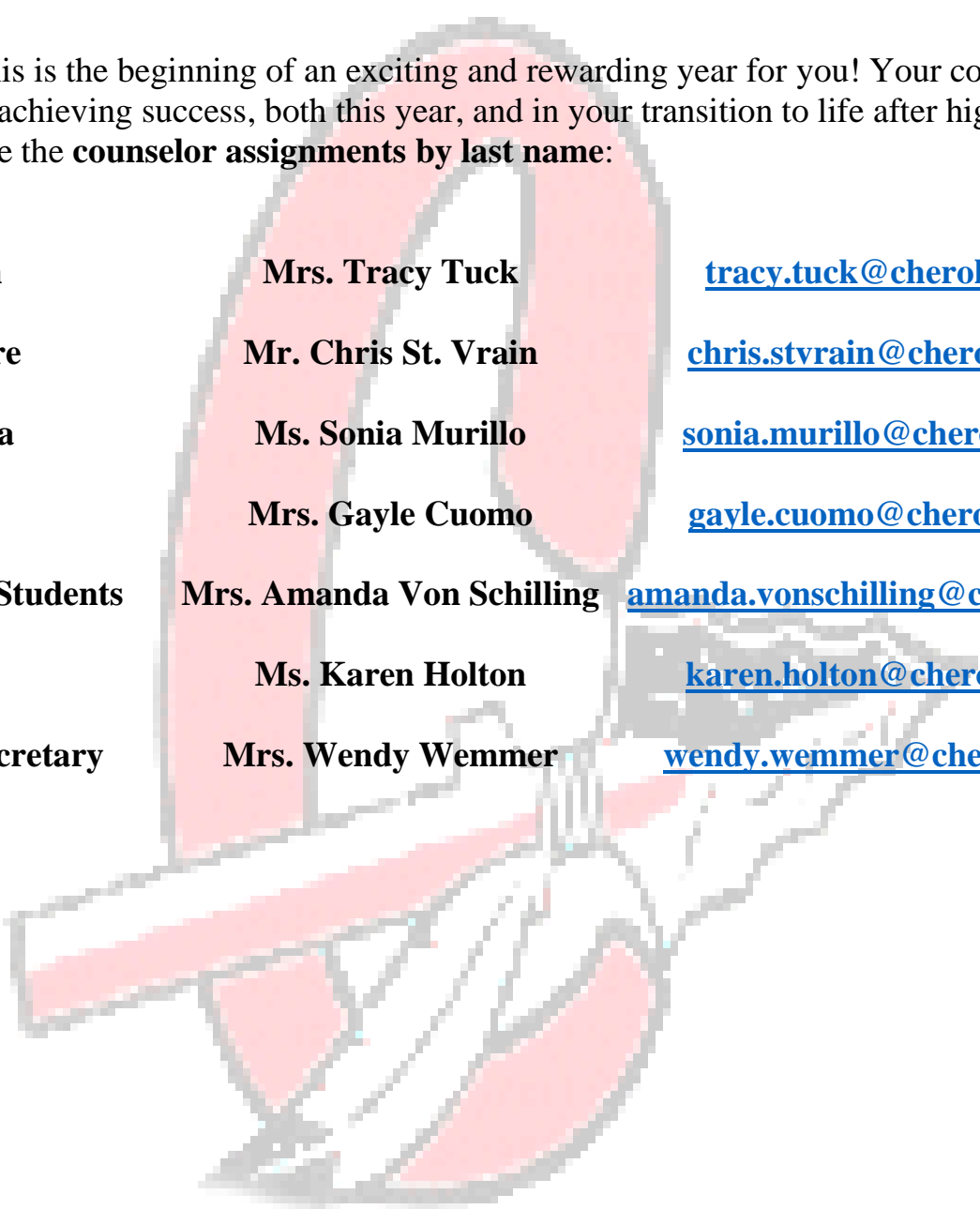


**Cherokee High School
Counseling Department**

CHS Counselor Contact Information

We hope that this is the beginning of an exciting and rewarding year for you! Your counselors want to assist you in achieving success, both this year, and in your transition to life after high school!

Listed below are the **counselor assignments by last name:**



A - Dan	Mrs. Tracy Tuck	<u>tracy.tuck@cherokeek12.net</u>
Dao -Here	Mr. Chris St. Vrain	<u>chris.stvrain@cherokeek12.net</u>
Herf -Ma	Ms. Sonia Murillo	<u>sonia.murillo@cherokeek12.net</u>
Mc -Ri	Mrs. Gayle Cuomo	<u>gayle.cuomo@cherokeek12.net</u>
Ro - Sch & EL Students	Mrs. Amanda Von Schilling	<u>amanda.vonschilling@cherokeek12.net</u>
Sci - Z	Ms. Karen Holton	<u>karen.holton@cherokeek12.net</u>
Counseling Secretary	Mrs. Wendy Wemmer	<u>wendy.wemmer@cherokeek12.net</u>

How Can My School Counselor Help Me?

- **Academic Advising**

Are you:

Taking all the classes you need to graduate on time?

Taking the types of classes that most colleges look for?

Getting the help that you need if you're having trouble in class?

Taking classes and participating in activities that will challenge you?

- **College Planning**

Your school counselor can point you toward colleges that are right for you by recommending colleges that fit with your academic record and your career goals. When it is the time to apply, your counselor can be a big help!

- **Paying for College**

The government, colleges, and private organizations can offer students money to help pay for college. Your school counselor is a good resource for information about this financial aid and can give you insight on how the process works. Be sure to ask about scholarships which offer money you do not have to pay back.

- **Career Planning**

Ask your counselor about upcoming career fairs and job nights. Exploring career areas that interest you can help you choose fitting colleges, majors, and job paths. Your school counselor can let you know what kind of education or training requirements are needed for your desired career path.

- **Counseling/ Social Emotional**

If you have a problem in your personal life, a school counselor can speak with you about it, or tell you where you can get further help. School counselors are trained to deal with everything from bullying to drug and alcohol abuse.

What should I be looking for?

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS REPRESENTATIVES VISIT CHS

Many college admissions counselors visit CHS to provide students with information about their schools. Due to the present situation with COVID-19, representatives may host virtual meetings or sessions online. Keep an eye on the bulletin board outside of the counseling office and listen to the morning announcements for dates and times of their visits or online meetings. Passes will be available in the counseling office on a first come, first served basis.

SCHOLARSHIPS

There are many ways to explore scholarship offerings. Scholarships sent directly to the CHS counseling office are posted on the CHS website, as well as on the CHS Counselor Canvas page.

CONNECT WITH US ON [TWITTER @CHSCOUNSDEPT](#) and on [FACEBOOK](#) at Cherokee High School Counseling Department! Scholarships are tweeted out and posted regularly.

There are many FREE scholarship search engines online and also on the App Store on your phone, both iOS and Android. At the end of this packet are a few options for students. Students should spend some time each week to search these sites and apps and apply to scholarships that will work for you or are applicable to you. On average, students should apply for two to four scholarships per month. Even if the scholarship is for \$30, you should apply! Every little bit helps.

Fast Web: www.fastweb.com

Scholarships: www.scholarships.com

College Board: www.collegeboard.org

GA Futures: www.gafutures.org

CareerOneStop: www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx

CHS PROBE FAIR

ADVISEMENT HOUR

Wednesday, October 6th 5:15-6 pm
CHS Main Cafe

Jr/ Senior Advisement Hour will take place one hour prior to the annual Cherokee County PROBE Fair. CHS Counselors will be in the main cafe ready to answer questions and provide important information about your senior year, graduation, and beyond! Any student who plans to apply to a college or university should attend. Topics will address some of the following issues: What are competitive colleges looking for in applicants? How important are honors and AP courses? How do these schools view extracurricular activities? How do I send my Transcripts? What should I be doing NOW to be competitive?

CHS PROBE FAIR

Wednesday, October 6th 6-8 pm
Cherokee High School

The annual Cherokee County PROBE Fair offers an excellent opportunity to visit one on one with college representatives, ask questions, and receive brochures and information about special programs. We highly recommend that you attend! There will be many colleges and universities ready to give you all kinds of information.

SENIOR CHECKLIST

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

- Review your graduation status with your counselor.
- Register to take the ASSET/ Accuplacer test if you are planning to attend a technical or two-year college.
- If you plan to attend a college or university, register for the SAT or ACT. Registration for these tests must be completed online.
 - ACT registration: www.act.org
 - SAT registration: www.sat.org/register
- ACT and SAT fee waivers are in the Counseling Office for students who qualify.
- Develop a resume, work on essays if needed, and request recommendations from teachers and counselors.
- Check that CHS has your **CORRECT Social Security Number** in our system. Having the wrong number in the system will delay or negate your HOPE eligibility.

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

- Complete online applications for Early Decision/Action and request transcripts through **PARCHMENT**. www.parchment.com
- Send ACT and or SAT scores to the colleges/universities of choice once you have received them.
- Attend college Open Houses, the PROBE Fair (**October 6th, 6-8**), and talk with college representatives. Research colleges and see if they offer in-person, or virtual visits or tours.
- See individual college websites, as well as www.gafutures.org, for current admissions requirements for all Georgia schools, and to begin the application process for those schools that you are interested in. It is a good idea to apply to three to five different schools. Keep in mind that each application will have a fee. Students that are eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch may be eligible for reduced application fees.

- Begin gathering information you may need and filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). FAFSA information is available on their website; www.fafsa.ed.gov. **Application opens October 1st!**
- Read the scholarship posts on the CHS Website, Twitter, and Facebook. Search for scholarships on the web and in your community. Check schools that you are applying to for scholarships specific to those schools.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

- Males must register for the Selective Service when they turn 18 at www.sss.gov
- Keep your grades up! **Senior grades DO count!**
- Parents should complete financial records for taxes as early as possible this year!
- If you applied for early decision/action, you may receive notification of admission as early as December.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

- Complete the FAFSA or the HOPE Alternative form if you did not do so in October.
- Check to see if your school requires the CSS Profile, this is typically needed for private colleges/universities. All FAFSA related information can be accessed on the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Follow up with colleges to be sure that your file is complete and that all materials have been received.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH

- Continue to search for and complete scholarships.
- Keep those grades up!!!

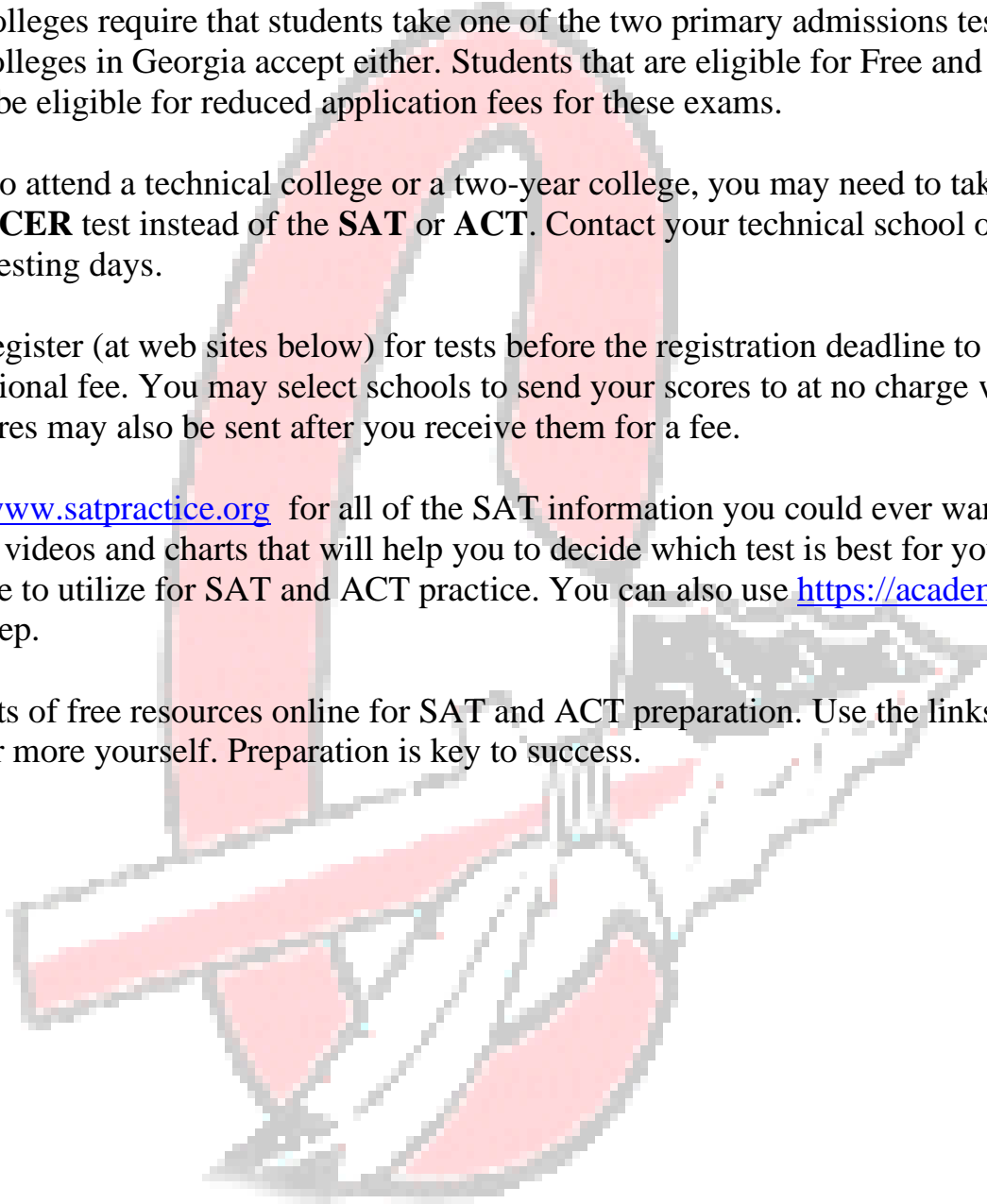
APRIL AND MAY

- Expect to receive regular decision admissions notifications from most schools the first week of April.
- Financial aid packages should be received in April.
- Most schools require a deposit and a letter of intent by May 1st. Compare schools, choose the best fit for you and **CELEBRATE!**
- Request that a final copy of your high school transcript be sent to your college in June using www.parchment.com

****Grades from APEX, GAVS, and Night School must be in by May 16th in order to walk in the Graduation ceremony.***

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS EXAMS

- Four-year colleges require that students take one of the two primary admissions tests: the **ACT** or the **SAT**. Colleges in Georgia accept either. Students that are eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch may be eligible for reduced application fees for these exams.
- If you plan to attend a technical college or a two-year college, you may need to take the **ACCUPLACER** test instead of the **SAT** or **ACT**. Contact your technical school or two-year college for testing days.
- Be sure to register (at web sites below) for tests before the registration deadline to avoid having to pay an additional fee. You may select schools to send your scores to at no charge when you take the test. Scores may also be sent after you receive them for a fee.
- Check out www.satpractice.org for all of the SAT information you could ever want! You can access great videos and charts that will help you to decide which test is best for you. This is also a great website to utilize for SAT and ACT practice. You can also use <https://academy.act.org/> for free ACT prep.
- There are lots of free resources online for SAT and ACT preparation. Use the links above as well as search for more yourself. Preparation is key to success.



SAT TEST DATES FOR 2021-22
Administered at Cherokee North
www.sat.org/register

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
August 28, 2021	July 30, 2021	August 17, 2021 (for registrations made online or by phone)
October 2, 2021	September 3, 2021	September 21, 2021 (online or phone)
November 6, 2021	October 8, 2021	October 26, 2021 (online or phone)
December 4, 2021	November 4, 2021	November 23, 2021 (online or phone)
March 12, 2022	February 11, 2022	March 1, 2022 (online or phone)
May 7, 2022	April 8, 2022	April 26, 2022 (online or phone)
June 4, 2022	May 5, 2022	May 25, 2022 (online or phone)

ACT TEST DATES FOR 2021-22
Administered at Cherokee North
www.act.org

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
September 11, 2021	August 6	August 20
October 23, 2021	September 17	October 1
December 11, 2021	November 5	November 19
February 12, 2022	January 7	January 21
April 2, 2022	February 25	March 11
June 11, 2022	May 6	May 20
July 16, 2022	June 17	June 24

COLLEGE APPLICATION DATA, AND HOW IT AFFECTS YOU!

What are some of the top things that colleges look at when considering your application?

- High school academic record (courses taken, grades, and rank in class). Grades that represent a strong effort and an upward trend. Slightly lower grades in a rigorous program are preferred to all A's in less challenging courses.
- ACT or SAT that are consistent with high school grades. High test scores do not compensate for low grades.
- A well-written essay that provides insight into your personality, values, and goals.
- Letters of recommendation from teachers and your counselor.
- Special talents or experiences (art, music, drama, athletics, leadership) that will contribute to the student body.
- Service to school and community.
- Demonstrated enthusiasm for attending the university. This is shown with every campus visit and interview (if required), and ongoing contact with the admission office.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- The admissions requirements of colleges in Georgia have consistently risen every year and it is anticipated that they will continue to do so. See college web sites and www.gafutures.org for current admissions information for all Georgia schools.
- **Most colleges only consider academic courses when calculating grade point averages, thus excluding grades from physical education, the fine arts, and other elective classes. *In most cases, the recalculated GPA will be lower than the one stated on your transcript.***

PRELIMINARY SCHOOLS LIST

It is a great idea to form a list of possible school choices. Think in terms of three categories: Reach schools, Range schools, and Safety schools.

- A “Reach” school might be one that is a dream school, but to which your GPA is currently below the average GPA of their incoming freshmen.
- A “Range” school is one to which your GPA and test scores are in line with the school’s requirements.
- A “Safety” school would be a school where you should definitely expect to be accepted, as your GPA and test scores are above the school’s admission requirements.

HOW DO I PAY FOR SCHOOL?

HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship and Grant Programs

- The **HOPE Scholarship** program is for students who plan attend a two or four-year college to work on an Associate's degree or a Bachelor's degree.
- The HOPE Scholarship requires a **3.0 grade point average** for college preparatory students. Students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible. This grade point average includes all academic classes and **no electives** such as PE, Fine Arts, or Technical classes. Student also need to have **4 full credits of rigor**. See www.gafutures.org for more information on rigor courses.
- Middle school courses and grades are **NOT** included in the HOPE calculation.
- All weighted grades at the high school will have the weights removed by the GSFC. The GSFC will then add a 0.5 quality weight for AP classes up to a 4.0. Honors courses are not weighted.
- The **Zell Miller Scholarship** is a merit-based award available to Georgia residents, similar to the HOPE Scholarship, but with more stringent academic requirements and a higher level of tuition assistance. A Zell Miller Scholarship recipient must graduate from high school with a minimum **3.7 grade point average** combined with a minimum **SAT score of 1,200** on the math and reading portions or a minimum composite **ACT score of 26** in single national test administration and maintain a minimum 3.3 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible. **4 credits of rigor** courses required.
- The high school will send your transcript to the Georgia Student Finance Commission for the HOPE calculation. The student must either complete the FAFSA or the HOPE application online at www.gafutures.org
- The **HOPE Scholarship** pays partial tuition at public colleges in Georgia. Students who attend a private college in Georgia who qualify for HOPE receive a monetary stipend per year towards their tuition.

- The **HOPE Grant** is for students who attend a Georgia public technical college to pursue a certificate or diploma.
- The HOPE Grant does not require a specific grade point average.
- **Zell Miller Grant** is a merit-based program available to Georgia residents pursuing a certificate or diploma. A Zell Miller Grant recipient must maintain a minimum **3.5 cumulative postsecondary grade point average** to remain eligible. Eligible students are provided full-standard tuition assistance while enrolled at a Zell Miller Grant eligible college or university in Georgia.

These scholarships and grants are a great way to pay for college, however, they are not the only way. Continue to look for other scholarships that may help offset the tuition expenses of the college or university of your choice.

Further information regarding the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship and Grant programs, as well as other financial information is available on the Georgia Student Finance Commission website.

<https://gsfc.georgia.gov/hope>

You can check your HOPE GPA at www.gafutures.org

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.parchment.com - All students will have to request their transcripts through **Parchment**. There is a \$5.65 fee to have your transcript sent. You must click “**Update**” to request to see the most up-to-date transcript. It may take 24 hours for student to see the up-dated Transcript.

www.gafutures.org - A website from the Georgia Student Finance Commission. This site contains career, college, testing, and financial aid information for students and parents. Online college and financial aid applications are included. You can also see your HOPE GPA!!!!

www.ncaaclearinghouse.net - All student athletes who plan to participate in collegiate athletics must register at this site. There is a legitimate fee for this service.

www.princetonreview.com – Free, full-length practice SAT exam and college information.

www.kaptest.com - Test preparation as well as college information.

www.fastweb.com - Scholarship search.

www.finaid.org - Scholarship search and financial aid information.

www.bls.gov/ooh/ - Occupational Outlook Handbook from the US Department of Labor.

www.doleta.gov/ - US Department of Labor.

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter for College and Scholarship Information:

Facebook - Cherokee High School Counseling Department

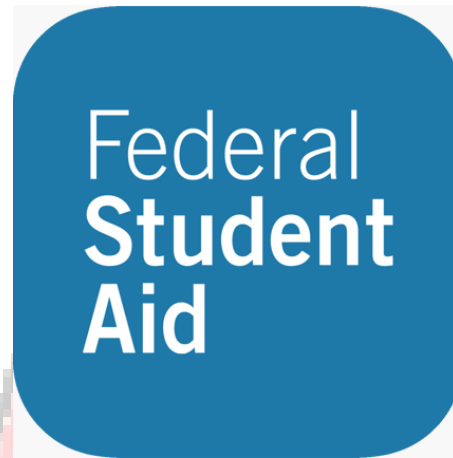
Twitter - @chscounsdept

AS ALWAYS, check the CHS website and the

Counseling Department Canvas page.

NOTE: Although some of the above web sites may offer products or services for sale, everyone offers free information that is helpful in planning for your future. We caution you against purchasing anything from these web sites. The NCAA Clearinghouse registration fee and Parchment fee are exceptions.

USEFUL APPS



myStudentAid

Students and parents can use this app version of the www.fafsa.ed.gov website to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.



Niche: Colleges, K-12, Companies & Neighborhoods

This free app helps you to compare colleges with its college search function, admissions calculator, and scholarship search, and more.



Scholarships.com

The companion app to the website, www.scholarships.com, is a great, free tool for your phone that can help you to search for scholarships and other opportunities to pay for college.



Fastweb College Scholarships

The companion app for the website, www.fastweb.com, is another excellent scholarship search application providing access to scholarship applications that can be completed on your phone.



Student Calendar

This app helps students to get organized and track tasks from day to day. Students can enter information about tests, homework, and other appointments all in one place, and set reminders, and create To Do lists.



Habitica: Gameify your Tasks

This app lets you treat your day to day life as if it was a game in order to stay organized and motivated. After inputting and completing habits, tasks, and goals, your avatar will level up, and features such as skills, pets, armor, and quests, can be unlocked.

NOTES

