

Senior Year Checklist

July

- Applications open for Texas schools that use GoApplyTexas.org

August

- Senior Portraits (closed by September - if after September, please contact Nicole.Preston@mysd.gs)
- Applications open for schools that use Common Application
- If you are planning to try to play college athletics, please register with NCAA Student Clearinghouse and/or NAIA Eligibility Center online.

September

- Go on college visits to help you narrow down your schools you want to apply to, and be mindful of their application deadlines. Many universities have fall deadlines, such as November 1st/December 1st. You can also use these visits to visit community colleges, trade schools, or technical schools (examples: TSTC in Red Oak or Navarro College).
- Ask your teachers, coaches, mentors, and counselors for letters of recommendation. Be prepared to provide them a resume or information sheet detailing your activities, clubs, extracurriculars, work experience, and goals.
- If you qualify for a fee waiver for the SAT, ACT, and/or college applications, ask your counselor for help!
- Stay active in extracurricular activities

October

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid, fafsa.gov) opens October 1st. Remember, many schools award financial aid packages on a first-come, first-served basis. Priority deadline in Texas is January 15th. **Texas requires you to either complete the FAFSA or complete the opt-out form as a graduation requirement.**
- Senior cap/gown ordering packets go home and ordering during lunches with Jostens representatives (jostens.com)
- Still working to decide your next step after graduation? Starting points:
 - www.TexasRealityCheck.com - Job/Career Planning
 - <https://roadtripnation.com/> - Career Exploration
 - <http://gentx.org/> - College Planning
 - www.texasoncourse.com - Resources for exploring career and college options
 - Your Xello account (Classlink > Xello)

November

- Complete and turn in your community service hours to your counselor (10 hours minimum), if you have not already done so! Forms for documentation are available in the Counseling Office . **This is a graduation requirement.**
- Senior ads in yearbook - cutoff date
- Be mindful of college application deadlines

December

- If you are planning to enlist in the military, we advise you to take a parent/guardian or other trusted adult with you when you enlist.

- STAAR EOC Retest, if needed (Remember, these are the 5 required for graduation: Algebra I, English I, Biology, English II, and US History)

January

- Scholarships for local/community organizations begin to open this semester. Please check your Xello account for scholarship information
- Monitor your attendance - the #1 academic success predictor is attendance

February

- National College Signing Day for Athletics
- Continue to monitor your grades. Your GPA for class rank for graduation purposes is run at the end of the 5th 6 weeks grading period and includes your 4th 6 weeks grade and your 5th 6 weeks grade.
- Finalize your resume: Be prepared to apply for jobs and scholarships (Use your Xello account)
- Take the TSI 2.0 (Texas Success Initiative test for college readiness) if needed

March

- Complete your Police Officer Interaction training if you have not already done so. **This is a graduation requirement.**
- Complete your CPR training if you have not already done so. **This is a graduation requirement.**
- Listen/watch for announcements regarding graduation ceremony and end of year procedures

April

- Complete College Bridge English and Math to earn your completion certificate and TSI exemption at certain colleges
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 - <http://gentx.org/> - College Planning
 - www.texasoncourse.com - Resources for exploring career and college options
 - Your Xello account!

May

- May 1st - National Decision Day for college
- Take Advanced Placement exams if applicable
- Attend senior awards night
- Senior week activities, including class picture, elementary school walk, senior meeting, final graduation checklist, graduation walkthrough, senior survey
- Say thank you to parents/guardians, family members, teachers, mentors, or other staff members who helped you achieve this goal
- Congratulations! Graduation!