

College Planning for Seniors

SEPTEMBER

- ✓Begin to narrow your college choices, if you haven't already. Meet with admissions representatives at MHS during the fall college visits or schedule on-campus visits. Fall is a great time to visit schools because classes are in session and you are better able to meet and talk with students and professors.
- ✓Get organized and create files for your target schools if you haven't already. Become familiar with the schools' admission requirements and deadlines. Make a master calendar showing the application deadlines for admission, financial aid and scholarships.
- ✓Choose individuals to write letters of recommendation. Teachers, coaches, activity leaders, etc. are ones you want to ask to write letters of recommendation for you. You can complete an activity sheet (in guidance office) so the person can write a more informative letter. Ask people who know you well and will have positive things to say. Make sure you give them several weeks to write the letter before you need it.
- ✓Complete and return a transcript release form to the guidance office so we can mail your transcript when needed.
- ✓Start a scholarship search: There are lots of scholarships out there, you just have to spend some time and effort to find them. There are websites (see list on back), local organizations, corporations, your parents' employers or service clubs, our guidance website and of course the financial aid office of the school you choose. The sooner you start looking, the easier it will be to apply for scholarships.
- ✓Stay on track with your grades and extracurricular activities. Colleges will look at what you've done in your senior year, so stay focused on doing well in your classes and maintaining your commitments to extracurricular activities.
- ✓Register for the SAT/ACT, if necessary.

OCTOBER

- ✓Start working on applications for admission to colleges. Download or look online at college applications. Check application dates. Larger universities may have early dates or rolling admission. Develop an essay to use, if necessary, and secure letters of recommendation. It's okay to apply to colleges that you think will be more difficult to get into. But it's important to have a backup plan also.
- ✓File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as early as October 1st.
- ✓Attend the Financial Aid Night (with your parents) at MHS on Monday, October 25, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the high school presented by a local PHEAA representative.
- ✓Register for the SAT/ACT, if necessary.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

✓Continue working on college applications, submitting them when necessary. BE AWARE OF DEADLINES!

✓Request transcript in guidance office to be sent after application is submitted/mailed.

JANUARY

✓Follow up on your applications. Make sure you submit all forms necessary and check with schools to make sure they have received all of your information, including test scores, transcripts, and recommendations.

✓No senioritis, please! Colleges do look at second semester senior grades.

FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL

✓Continue your scholarship search and check the guidance office website for local scholarships (new ones every week) and APPLY!

✓Watch your email for admissions letters and financial aid awards.

✓Compare offers and make a decision. Most schools ask you to notify them regarding your decision by May 1st.

MAY/JUNE

✓Complete enrollment paperwork for the college you will attend.

✓The last week of school, request to have your final high school transcript sent to the college you will be attending in the fall. If you took/are taking Saint Francis dual enrollment courses, you need to request a transcript be sent from the Saint Francis University as well. Go to their website for information.

✓Congratulations! You have finished high school and are about to embark on the next part of your journey in life. Best wishes!

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

✓Scholarships & College Information: educationplanner.org; collegeboard.org; fastweb.com; bigfuture.org; petersons.com; studentaid.ed.gov; fafsa.ed.gov

✓Career Information: acinet.org; bls.gov