

# Welcome to your Senior Year!!!

## The DHS Counseling Office

The Dansville High School Counseling Office is your source for all things College, Military & Career!

To take full advantage of everything that the Counseling Office provides, please be aware of the following:

**EMAILS:** Seniors are sent emails from the Counselors and from Ms. Oldfield on a **regular basis** that will contain a vast array of material. Oftentimes, these emails will include appointment dates and times and/or have attachments such as “College/University Visits at DHS” fliers, “Military Recruiter Visits to DHS” fliers, “Upcoming Events” fliers, “Available Scholarships” flier, etc. It is **very important** that you read these emails, along with any attachments, to keep you up-to-date and well-informed of Senior Year Happenings.

**COUNSELING “CLASS OF” GOOGLE CLASSROOM:** The Counseling Office will post updates to your Counseling “Class of” Google Classroom that contain information including (but not limited to) Important Dates to Remember, Interesting Opportunities, Testing (SAT/ACT) Information, College Representative and Military Recruiter Visits to DHS, etc. When updates are posted, you will receive notifications via email and will be able to access the classroom feed at anytime. Parents will also have the opportunity to receive the Counseling “Class of” Google Classroom updates and access the feed if they choose. An email will be sent to parents with an invitation link to the Classroom, with the following links are helpful guides:

GUARDIAN SUMMARY - [https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/6386354?hl=en&ref\\_topic=6024979](https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/6386354?hl=en&ref_topic=6024979) and  
GUARDIAN SUMMARY FAQ's - <https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/7126518?hl=en#zippy=>

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** The “Available Scholarships & Awards” flier includes the scholarships and awards that are offered by the generous organizations of the Dansville School District, along with some regional scholarships, and a few New York State and National scholarships and awards. The flier is sent by email as an attachment, with additional copies posted to Counseling “Class of” Google Classroom, the High School Counseling Office pages of the Dansville School District website and to other Social Media sites. Local scholarship applications, and a few Regional scholarship applications, are located in the Counseling Office and may be picked up during regular school day hours. (Some Regional and National scholarship applications require submissions online and the websites to visit can be located on the flier.)

\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*\* There are some scholarships and awards that **DO NOT** require a graduating senior to attend college; you can be entering the workforce or enlisting in the military.

**TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS:** When you are in need of a copy of your high school transcript (unofficial and/or official), you **MUST** complete a “Transcript Request Form” for **EACH** copy that you need. (For example: a form must be completed for every college/university you apply to, for the NCAA, for any scholarships that require a copy of your transcript or your educational information, for college visits and/or college coaches, etc.) These forms are located in the Counseling Office, as well as on the Counseling Office website under College & Career Planning.

**STUDENT PERSONAL DATA SHEETS:** These sheets are a simple form that allow you to detail your activities and experiences during your high school career (sports, extracurricular activities, community service, etc.) A completed copy of the “Student Personal Data Sheet” is **REQUIRED** for your Counselor when you submit your first “Transcript Request Form,” and is a great resource for anyone that you may ask to write a letter of recommendation for you. Once you have completed a Student Personal Data Sheet, you can simply make additional photo copies to give to letter of recommendation writers without having to complete the sheet multiple times. Data sheets are located in the Counseling Office, as well as on the Counseling Office website under College & Career Planning.

**COLLEGE PREP OVERVIEW CALENDAR & CHECKLIST:** These documents (attached to this packet) are helpful resources for anyone interested in continuing their education after high school graduation. The calendar includes important monthly items that you should be aware of and/or making sure that you are taking care of during your Senior Year, while the checklist is a handy “To Do List” that you can refer back to throughout your Senior year.

**DHS COUNSELING OFFICE WEBSITE:** The Counseling Office website is a **valuable tool** that is at your fingertips. By visiting the website, you can find answers to commonly asked questions, as well as stay up-to-date with current events and information that is important to your senior year. You can easily access college planning timelines, information regarding the U.S. Military and other career options, a listing of available scholarships and awards, fliers with event details, and several other helpful items.

Steps to locate the Counseling Office website:

- \* Visit [www.dansvillecsd.org](http://www.dansvillecsd.org)
- \* Choose “High School” under the “Our Schools” link
- \* Choose “Counseling”
- \* Choose any of the Quick Links on the left side of the page to locate the information you are searching for

# COLLEGE PREPARATION OVERVIEW

## SENIOR YEAR

### JULY

7/28: SAT Registration Deadline (8/26 Exam)

- Continue college visits
- Attend college summer programs
- If you haven't already, and want to play sports in college, visit NCAA to register
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### AUGUST

8/4: ACT Registration Deadline (9/9 Exam)  
8/26: SAT Exam

- Continue college visits
- Narrow college choices to 3-5 schools
- Request admissions info & school catalogs
- Research & apply for scholarships
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### SEPTEMBER

9/8: SAT Registration Deadline (10/7 Exam)  
9/9: ACT Exam  
9/22: ACT Registration Deadline (10/28 Exam)

- Check deadlines for any early admissions
- Get started on admissions essay
- Request letters of recommendation
- Review & follow "Senior Year Checklist" (on reverse side of this calendar page)
- \_\_\_\_\_

### OCTOBER

10/6: SAT Registration Deadline (11/4 Exam)  
10/7: SAT Exam  
10/16: Rochester Area College Fair @ DHS  
10/28: ACT Exam

- Complete FAFSA application (Begins Oct. 1st)
- FAFSA will send Student Aid Report. Make any corrections & return to FAFSA processor
- Submit applications for early admissions
- Check NCAA status/task list & send transcript
- \_\_\_\_\_

### NOVEMBER

11/3: SAT Registration Deadline (12/2 Exam)  
11/3: ACT Registration Deadline (12/9 Exam)  
11/4: SAT Exam

- Submit early admissions applications!!!
- Have someone review your application essay
- Check Financial Aid office of colleges you've applied to confirm they received your info
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### DECEMBER

12/2: SAT Exam  
12/9: ACT Exam

- Finalize & submit admission applications
- Apply for other financial aid, grants, etc.
- If you applied early decision, watch for letters
- If accepted early, withdraw other applications
- Research deadlines at the college you plan to attend for housing & their specific financial aid

### JANUARY

1/5: ACT Registration Deadline (2/10 Exam)

- Contact college admissions office to be sure all your info has been received, & if they need anything else
- Attend any financial aid workshops/seminars
- Many LOCAL scholarships come available, so review "Available Scholarships & Awards"

### FEBRUARY

2/23: SAT Registration Deadline (3/9 Exam)  
2/10: ACT Exam

- Be mindful of deadline dates!!!
- Confirm colleges received your applications
- Confirm financial aid office received your info
- Visit campus of your top college choices
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### MARCH

3/9: SAT Exam  
3/8: ACT Registration Deadline (4/13 Exam)

- Watch for acceptance letters to arrive
- Watch for financial aid offers to arrive
- Compare colleges & financial aid packages
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### APRIL

4/19: SAT Registration Deadline (5/4 Exam)  
4/13: ACT Exam

- Make your final school decision
- Send deposit to college
- Notify schools you have NOT chosen to attend
- Revisit college campus that you chose
- Plan for registration, orientation, & housing
- \_\_\_\_\_

### MAY

5/01: National College Decision Day  
5/3: ACT Registration Deadline (6/8 Exam)  
5/4: SAT Exam  
5/6-10 AP Exams (Week 1)  
5/13-17 AP Exams (Week 2)  
5/17: SAT Registration Deadline (6/1 Exam)

- Request transcript from GCC if you took dual credits during high school. Send to college.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### JUNE

6/01: SAT Exam  
6/8: ACT Exam  
6/30: Last day to submit FAFSA forms

- Graduate from High School!!!
- Register for college courses
- Locate housing if living off-campus or contact and get to know dorm roommate(s)
- Attend orientations
- \_\_\_\_\_

# SENIOR YEAR COLLEGE CHECKLIST

- ☐ **YOUR ENTIRE SENIOR YEAR:** Read your emails!!! Review the Counseling “Class of” Google Classroom.
- ☐ **Think about what you want in your prospective college:** Talk to your counselor and find out what tools your high school has for researching your best options.
- ☐ **Sign up for the SAT®/ACT® and SAT Subject Tests™:** If you’re thinking of applying for early decision acceptance and you’re not happy with your previous scores, you should take the ACT or SAT Exam in September or October.
- ☐ **Search for scholarships:** There are several scholarships that are available nationwide, statewide, regionally, locally, and at your chosen college. You should search for scholarships throughout your senior year, and be aware of the required criteria for applying, as well as all deadline dates. Local scholarships offer a better opportunity to be chosen as an award recipient based on fewer submitted applications, while college specific scholarships are only awarded if you attend that particular college, and regional and/or national scholarships have a much larger pool of applicants. Pay attention to your school email box, and/or visit the Counseling Office Website at any time, for the most recently posted “Available Scholarships & Awards” flier.
- ☐ **Write your college application essay:** Have a good time with the essay. Avoid formulas. Don’t be afraid to demonstrate your individuality. Proofread it once, twice, three times before sending and have someone else proofread it also.
- ☐ **Ask for recommendations:** Most colleges require that you get letters of recommendation from teachers or other adults in your life. Ask for letters **early** and provide your resume with all of your accomplishments or pick up a Student Information Data Sheet from the Counseling Office to help your references. Don’t forget instructions on how/where to send the recommendation letter.
- ☐ **Apply for early decision acceptance:** If you’re confident that you have found your dream school, consider applying early decision or early action. You’ll know where you’ll be next year and can breathe a deep sigh of relief by mid-December. Of course, with early decision acceptance comes commitment to that school, and you can only apply to that one school. (Early action applications aren’t as stringent, but fewer colleges offer this option.)
- ☐ **Apply to your top-choice schools:** Many colleges use the Common App for applications, which you can fill out and submit online. Some SUNY schools use the Common App, but also use the SUNY website that you can fill out and submit online. You may need to complete an application for a specific school directly on their website, or print the completed application and submit it by snail mail.
- ☐ **Don’t put rolling admissions on the back burner:** Some colleges admit applicants on a continuous basis. At these schools, the earlier you apply, the more spaces there are available.
- ☐ **Schedule interviews and campus visits at your chosen schools:** Though interviews are optional, they’re a good opportunity to have additional discussions with your selected school(s). It’s best to schedule these early.
- ☐ **Fill out the FAFSA® forms to get financial aid:** You can find and fill out this form online at FAFSA.ed.gov. You can begin filling out the FAFSA on its new, earlier opening date of October 1.
- ☐ **Keep on deadline:** Applicants can ruin their chances for admission by sending materials in late. Let your recommendation writers know your deadlines and make sure you’ve given your counselor everything he or she needs to send along with your transcripts.
- ☐ **On the waiting list? Don’t give up hope:** Let the college know immediately that you’re still excited and ready to attend. Send updated grades and activities to boost your chances.
- ☐ **You’re accepted—what now:** Compare aid packages. Be sure to let the colleges know right away of any changes to your family’s income, such as a parent making a job or career change—it could affect your aid package. Return your signed acceptance letter and student/parent loan applications to your college. Notify all other schools that you did NOT choose. You’ll also probably need to place a deposit now. Don’t forget to thank the people who recommended you and tell them where you’ll be attending.

## CONTACT THE COUNSELING OFFICE

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