

Calendar for College –Bound Seniors

SEPTEMBER

- Attend the “Senior/Parent Guidance Meeting” on **Wednesday, September 25@ 6:30PM** in the NMHS Library.
- Make sure you take challenging courses in your senior year.
- Make an appointment with your school counselor to check graduation credits, discuss colleges, dual enrollment, scholarships and the application process for both.
- Register for *SAT, SAT w/writing or SAT II* - **October 5 (Registration Deadline: September 6)** – Cost \$50 or w/essay \$67 (Let the school counselor know if you qualify for a fee waiver).
- Register for *ACT or ACT w/Writing* – **October 26 (Registration Deadline: September 20)** - Cost \$50 or w/writing \$67.00
- Organize & gather information on potential colleges and visit their web sites.
- Decide whom you will ask to write college recommendations for you. Students need to create a student profile/resume to give to teachers and allow at least two weeks writing them.
- Check email daily and pay attention to announcements for scholarships and college visits.
- Update your Naviance Account.
- Go on-line and register for a free scholarship website at **Fastweb.com** – NO Charge.
- Set up college visits and tour their campus.

OCTOBER

- **Register for SAT, SAT w/Writing and or SAT II Subject Tests – November 2 (Registration Deadline: October 3).**
- File your Free Application for **Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** as soon as possible after October 1. You can complete it online at **fafsa.ed.gov** or fill out a printed form and mail it. In some cases, you can apply directly through your school. You will need information from your parents' tax return to complete the application, so ask them to file early.
- After your application has been reviewed, you will be able to view your **Student Aid Report (SAR) online**. This will include your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is a number used by schools to calculate how much you will be expected to pay for college, as well as the amount of federal student aid you may be eligible for.
- It is the student’s responsibility to meet college & financial application deadlines and to take required tests.
- Some Early Decision/Early Notification applications due.
- Check financial aid application deadlines- Determine if any of your colleges require the CSS Profile – Available to apply on-line only starting October 1. (Mostly private colleges use this form)
- Develop an on-line account with the Common application. Many colleges except this universal application and can help save students time. If students use the common application, they need to fill out additional supplemental information for the common application.
- Narrow down your college choices. Do not rule out a college because it is too expensive. Some of the most expensive schools have well-endowed scholarship money available.
- Have a “Back up or Safety” college (One you are sure you will get into and would be willing to attend). Also, consider a “Stretch or Reach” college (One you would really like to attend but think your scores or grades may be a bit low).

- Ask your English teacher or school counselor to review your college essays before submitting them.
- Make a resume/student profile of activities including: honors, awards, sports participation, student government, band, chorus, clubs, outside organization membership, work experience, community service contribution, offices held and the number of hours per activity as well as Grade levels from 9 – 12.
- Begin the application process at colleges of your choice.
- Allow the Guidance department at least *five (5) working days* to process your application. It is your responsibility to plan ahead, keeping in mind college application deadlines.
- Make a photocopy of all your college and scholarship application information before mailing.

NOVEMBER

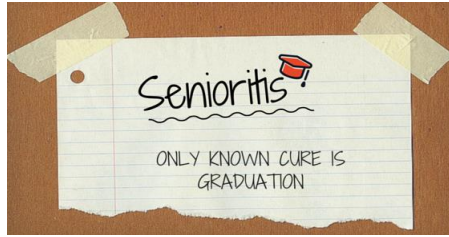
~**Financial Aid** - FORMS Support w/ VSAC counselor - **Nov. 5, Tues. 3 – 7PM** – Drop in anytime at NMHS Library

- Register for *SAT/SAT II Subject Tests*- **December 1 (Deadline: November 8)**
- Register for *ACT w/Writing* – **December 8 by (Deadline: November 2)** – **Last test date for seniors to assure colleges receive scores before making admission decisions.**
- Most Early Action/Decision applications are due by November 1, or 15.
- Continue to narrow down college choices and make a tour if possible.
- Check private colleges' financial aid deadlines and which ones require CSS Profile. For schools, which require the CSS Profile, file it on-line and develop a pin number.
- Athletes – Complete NCAA paperwork if you plan to play sports and/or receive scholarships at Division I or II colleges.
- Start checking the Naviance Website for updated scholarships as well as the Scholarship File in Guidance Office.
- Read all application and financial aid information carefully and pay attention to deadlines.
- Complete all college essays and application forms with a January 1st deadline and get them to the Guidance Office by **Friday, December 13, 2019.**
- Secondary School Report sections of your application and transcript request forms should be turned in to your School Counselor by early December if you have not done so previously.

WINTER - 2020

- Ask your high school to send your transcripts to the colleges in which you are applying.
- Boys who are 18 years or older must be registered for Selective Service to receive student financial aid.
- Complete scholarship applications.
- Consider taking **Advanced Placement (AP)** exams. They offer the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation's colleges and universities.

Stay Strong..... Don't let it happen!!!



SPRING - 2020

- Watch your mailbox because many colleges announce acceptance decisions in **April**. If you can, make one last visit to each of the schools you have been accepted. Once you make your decision, be sure to return your acceptance letter by the deadline (usually the beginning of May) to save your spot.
- If you've been accepted by more than one college, take the time to notify the colleges you won't be attending of your decision.
- Student financial aid letters usually arrive by the beginning of May. If you need additional funding, it's not too late to apply for a student loan.
- Submit your tuition deposit to the college you've chosen. Be sure to get it on time (typically early in May). A late payment could jeopardize your admission.
- If you're not admitted to any of the colleges you applied to, see your guidance counselor. He or she may have options you may not be aware of.
- If you're "wait-listed" by a college and intend to enroll if accepted, call, visit or write to the admissions director to reaffirm your intention. Take the opportunity to ask how you can improve your standing on the wait list.

SUMMER – 2020

- Follow the college's financial aid instructions closely.
- Get a job to earn extra money for the school year.
- Open a bank account you can access at college – a **checking account** with a **debit card** is recommended, and possibly a **savings account**.

