



Rising Senior Summer To Do List

We hope this list finds you well, and you're excited about this process! We want you to know that we are here to support you and are still providing assistance and answering questions regarding the college application process. Along with the timeline you received in the mail, this can be helpful, as there are some to-do's that you and your family can tackle before we have our appointment. Below are a few helpful items to help you through the process.



HF

1

Podcasts

Take a few minutes to check out the podcasts on the Post-Secondary webpage (click on "HF 101 Podcast to access the series of podcasts). These are quick 10-12 minute podcasts that discuss different aspects of the college process. You can take a quick listen as your driving or sitting around the house.

2

Creating a list of colleges

As some of you may have heard, HF moved to a new college resource platform. You can begin creating your lists through the SchoolLinks website. The student will login using their HF gmail account.

3

Research some college webpages

Most college pages will have a wealth of information available, etc. cost of attendance, majors, and admissions requirements. Now that the pandemic seems to be moving back to some normalcy, colleges are beginning to allow families to visit campus. Each campus has different mandates, so please check their sites or reach out to the Admissions Office. Please check out this CARR resource that has contact information for colleges and universities across the United States that have regional representatives located in the Chicagoland area.

4

Parents/guardians, now would be a good time to discuss the financial side of this

Have an honest conversation with your student regarding what you can honestly afford to pay to send them to college. Let's be honest, full tuition (tuition paid for) or full-ride (tuition, room & board, & fees paid for) opportunities are out there, but often hard to obtain. So have that honest conversation with your student, and if that full tuition or full-ride opportunity does come to fruition, celebrate, but for now, let's work as if it won't happen.



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Essays/Personal Statements

Most college applications require that you write some type of essay or personal statement. This is a great time to think about what you may write about, and get something down on paper. This should be something you are passionate about or something that you would like the admission office to know about you that cannot be seen on your transcript. Consider topics like why you want to attend college, what you may be interested in studying or what makes you different from other applicants. Here are the **Common App Personal Essay Prompts** to help you get started. Need additional help brainstorming for a topic? Try one of **these activities**.



6

Scholarships

Now is a great time to begin researching scholarships. We have a wonderful scholarship page for you to research. Right now, research the links down the middle of the page, and fill out a few of them. They will require you to fill out a profile, and you will receive emails for scholarships you may qualify for. We would suggest that you create a separate email for scholarships, as you will receive scholarship emails, but also “junk” emails.



7

Thinking of going straight to the workforce or a trade?

If you're interested in pursuing a trade, click **here** for a great resource.



8

Thinking about the military

For some, this is a great route to go! You may be considering enlisting right away to one of the military branches, but did you know there are a few other options! One is possibly going through the ROTC or Reserve Officers' Training Corp, or the National Guard. If interested, we would suggest meeting with a military recruiter, to explore all of your options. You can meet with any (or all) of the 4 branches at the recruiting office in Chicago Heights, right off of Joe Orr Rd.

- **Army**
- **Navy**
- **Air Force**
- **Marines**
- **Coast Guard**

Also, please explore this **post-secondary planning page** for additional information, and always know that we are here to assist!

The Postsecondary Counselors,
Mr. Coy & Mr. Kain