Heading into Senior Year

Top Things to Conquer Over Summer

Summer Checklist



1) Once semester 2 grades post, download a copy of your transcript from Infinite Campus (under “Documents”)
2) Finalize your college list or alternative plan options
3) Begin planning for and drafting any necessary essays (not all schools or scholarships require essays, so check first to see what you need!)
4) Determine if you will need forms/recommendation letters and who you will ask
5) If you haven’t yet, consider enrolling in the A+ Scholarship program
6) Sign up for College Application Work Sessions in August
7) Rest & restore

Finalize your college list or alternative plan options

If you need help developing your college list, check out the Finding the Best Fit College page on our website

> **Remember that we are looking for the best fit **academically**, **socially** and **financially**

If you are considering other options, review the Exploring Options Other Than College page on our website.

Begin planning for and drafting any necessary essays

Many colleges **don't** require essays!

Determine **IF** any of your colleges or scholarship opportunities will require one more more essays. If the prompts are already available, get started!

Need an essay and want assistance? Check out these **FREE** options: Mentors4College Essay Writing Workshop (4 day course!), College Essay Guy, and DePaul University's Essay Editing Services For High School Students



Free Help Available!

Determine if you will need forms/recommendation letters



Find out **IF** you will need any forms/recommendation letters, and determine who will prepare them.

We request that you give teachers and/or counselors at least 2-3 weeks' notice for writing recommendation letters. Asking them in August is sufficient.

You should have thoughtful conversations with your letter writers and clearly communicate your deadlines. Letter writers might also request a copy of your resume or ask that you fill out a survey or form for additional information.

*If you will be asking ***Mrs. Prange*** to write a **Counselor Recommendation**, you will need to (1) reach out to her and then (2) fill out this Rec Letter Info Sheet. If you prefer to ask your comprehensive counselor (Flagg, Lange, Hussmann or Greenwood) to complete the recommendation, touch base with them directly for their instructions!

Sign up for the A+ Scholarship program



If you haven't yet done so, consider enrolling in the Missouri A+ Scholarship Program.

The sooner you sign up, the more time you have to complete the program requirements. The deadline to enroll is Feb 1 of senior year.

The scholarship provides the possibility of earning 2 years of tuition at a MO community college and/or free summer school at the community college before you head off to your final college destination.

To learn more, check out the PCH A+ website.

> Enrolling requires viewing the **Tutor Training** slides and completing the digital **Participation Agreement**. (Note: you are not fully enrolled until you receive a copy of your agreement via email!)

The Common Application (Common App)

The Common Application is accepted by over 1000 colleges and universities.

Although **not all students use the Common Application** to apply to colleges, it *can* be a good option for those who plan to submit applications to **4 or more** schools who participate.

The Common App opens for the class of 2026 on August 1, 2025. If you would like to get your account set up now, you may do so here.

- You are considered a "first year student" regardless of how many college credits you may already have.
- You should create your account using the email address you would like colleges to have, and that you will check regularly!

Be sure to check out Top Tips for Common App before you begin applying in August.

College Application Work Sessions

Mrs. Prange will host a few **College Application Work Sessions** in the PCH Counseling classroom before we return to school.

Come in to simply work on applications while she is there to offer support and answer questions. For more details and to sign up, click here.



Rest & Restore

Although there are many things to conquer this summer, it is also important for you to unplug and take time to relax.

The fall of senior year is very busy and overwhelming, so be intentional this summer to recharge your batteries!

SEE YOU IN AUGUST!

