PUEBLO WEST HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR YEAR PLANNING SHEET

Seniors often think they have plenty of time, but the next few months are critical in completing your senior year. If you are planning to go to college, work, or the military, the time is now to begin the necessary steps toward your next goal. Listed below is a checklist that will help you get organized and stay on task. Use it to your advantage. Check each item and date it as you complete each task.

****Watch for announcements and check Schoology and the Counseling page on our website so you do not miss any potential opportunities!***

September

- ✓ Register for the ACT and/or SAT if you still need to take tests or are simply wanting to improve your test scores. All tests should be completed by January 1. Our CEEB code is 061203. If you plan to play sports in college the NCAA and NAIA needs a copy of your scores.
- ✓ Use your student access to PowerSchool to check graduation requirements. All 25 credits, and specific class requirements must be completed to attend the graduation ceremony.
- ✓ **Register for credit recovery classes if needed.**
- ✓ Think about your future options…work, military service, community/junior college, 4 year university, private or public school. If pursuing college, begin researching different schools to find the right match for you.
- ✓ Attend college fairs, day/night fairs. Plan on visiting 2-3 college campuses and visit with admissions counselors. We have posted links on the website for virtual college fairs.
- ✓ If interested in college athletics, complete NCAA Paperwork (www.ncaaclearinghouse.net) or NAIA (https://play.mynaia.org/) including the eligibility worksheet. See your athletic director if you have any questions.
- ✓ If interested in military service, talk with military recruiters and/or liaison officers.
- ✓ If interested in attending one of the military service academies, request nomination packets and applications immediately! USAFA: www.academyadmissions.com. West Point: www.usma.edu. US Naval Academy: www.usna.edu. US Coast Guard Academy: www.cga.edu. US Merchant Marine Academy: www.usmma.edu.
- ✓ Organize your portfolio. Complete your resume. Request your recommendations from teachers, employers, counselors and coaches. Teachers and counselors need 2 weeks to write recommendations. Please provide them with a resume. Make 3 to 4 copies of each recommendation.

October

- ✓ Visit with the college representatives who come to Pueblo West High School. Listen to announcements for dates. These are being done virtually right now.

- ✓ If you haven't already, start searching for scholarships! Look on specific college websites for information about scholarships. Other scholarship links are: www.fastweb.com, www.scholarships.com, or www.collegboard.com. Check Schoology and our website for a list of scholarships as well.
- ✓ If you haven't already, begin filling out college applications and working on personal essays if required.
- ✓ Be prepared to have letters of recommendations and official transcripts. Official transcripts will be mailed or sent electronically from the counselors office. Be sure we have the college address or email address to submit transcripts. Some colleges use Send.edu in which you fill in your counselors information and email and we get notified by Send.edu to submit a transcript.
- ✓ Be aware of college and scholarship application deadlines.
- ✓ **Begin filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for federal student funding.** This application opens on October 1st of each year. Applying online with FAFSA on the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov is faster and easier than using the paper application. Know what the priority deadline is for each college you plan on applying to.
- ✓ You should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) several weeks after submitting the FAFSA (or possibly quicker if you did the FAFSA online).
- ✓ Obtain college applications. Applications are available online.
- ✓ Concurrent enrollment for Spring semester begins in October.

November

- ✓ Check college and financial aid deadlines! It is very important to meet ***ALL*** deadlines. Plan ahead and make copies of everything you mail or submit online.
- ✓ Write college essays, if you haven't already.
- ✓ Take any remaining exams you have registered for.
- ✓ Continue to research colleges. Visit campus whenever possible. Contact the visitor center at specific colleges for a planned tour and meet with an admissions representative.
- ✓ Complete applications. Many highly selective colleges as well as ROTC and the military academies have deadlines this month.
- ✓ Continue to check for scholarships. The internet is a valuable resource.
- ✓ Remember those ACT and SAT registration deadlines and test dates.

December

- ✓ Check college and financial aid deadlines. All transcripts and college paperwork that you need should be completed by deadlines!
- ✓ If you are interested in the military, visit with a recruiter. Explore all branches of the service before deciding.
- ✓ Continue to check for scholarships. Email colleges to inquire about scholarships that are specific to the college for which you are applying. Check the school's website.

January

- ✓ Attend a financial aid workshop.

- ✓ KEEP WORKING HARD IN ALL OF YOUR CLASSES! Grades and courses continue to count throughout your senior year. **Colleges can rescind acceptances due to poor grades earned during the 2nd semester**.
- ✓ Check college financial aid due dates. Don't wait until the last minute to fill out financial aid forms. If you wait too long, the money may be gone.
- ✓ Register for 2nd semester credit recovery if needed
- ✓ Scholarships!! Scholarships!! Scholarships!!

February

- ✓ Scholarships!!
- ✓ Move towards a decision. Major colleges or universities want a decision by March.
- ✓ Remember to monitor your applications to be sure that all materials are sent and received on time and that they are all complete.
- ✓ Arrange for campus visits.

March and April

- ✓ Check into housing arrangements….deposits, refund dates, etc.
- ✓ Scholarships! Check deadlines!
- ✓ Don't neglect your high school work. Focus on graduation. Remember you must be in good standing and have all requirements completed to participate in the ceremony.
- ✓ Review college acceptances and financial aid packages. Be sure to compare financial aid packages in your decision making process. Follow acceptance instructions carefully.
- ✓ Make sure you have ordered your graduation announcements as well as your cap & gown. Let your counselor know if money is an issue.

May

- ✓ Pay close attention to announcements. This is an important time.
- ✓ AP Exams
- ✓ Make a final college choice and inform the college. Notify the colleges you are not going to attend. Request summer orientation activities information at your new school.
- ✓ Notify your counselor of your final decision and any scholarships that you receive.

Resources

- **www.ncaaclearinghouse.net**
- **play.mynaia.org**
- **www.massgearup.org**
- **www.collegeboard.com**
- **www.fastweb.com**
- **www.fafsa.gov**
- **www.bigfuture.org**

- **https://cof.college-assist.org/**
- **Scholarships will be posted in Schoology and on counseling website**