

Senior Planning Timeline

SENIOR YEAR

Congratulations! You've made it to your senior year! While this is a time for celebrating that you've come this far, remember that you still have one more year to go before you finish your high school career. Don't make the mistake of thinking, "This is my senior year, give me all the easy classes!" You do not want to ruin all of your hard work in the last semester(s) of high school!

Right before your senior year starts, you are officially a senior and can start sending out college applications (usually around August 1)! Keep in mind that there will most likely be an application fee associated with whichever college(s) you are applying to. Application fees can range from \$25 to upwards of \$100 just to apply. Try to narrow down your school choices to a manageable number and save yourself (and/or your family) some money. After your applications are submitted, make sure to request that your high school transcript is sent to each of those colleges through Naviance. Ideally, you want to have all of your applications sent out by November 1 for maximum scholarship and program consideration.

Students may choose to retake the SAT or take the ACT on any of the Saturday national test dates. Students register for these additional exams at www.collegeboard.org/sat and/or www.act.org. Your test scores should be sent via College Board and/or ACT. When you are signing up for SAT/ACT, you can request your scores be sent up to 4 colleges for free the first time you take a test. If you have already sent scores to a college, the next time you send your scores, there will be a fee incurred.

Worried about paying for college? Make sure you apply for financial aid through FAFSA. The results of the FAFSA will determine your eligibility for grants and low-interest Federal Stafford and/or Parent PLUS loans, provided you meet certain criteria. If you need assistance completing your FAFSA, plan to attend College Goal Sunday in November or February or any of our Financial Aid Nights here at CPHS. In addition to applying for FAFSA, make sure you apply for local community and national scholarships, which are posted in Naviance and are sent out via ParentSquare weekly.

If you are still undecided on where you want to go, college representatives will continue to visit with any interested students at CPHS. Make sure to sign up for these visits in Naviance so that you can meet with the representatives and ask any pertinent questions you may have about your transcript, your courses, the college, majors, etc. You may want to take things a step further and go on college visits during your senior year so that you can see the campus, dorms, and get a real "feel" for the college. Planning to go to the workforce after high school? Plan to attend our Career Fair here at CPHS in January during the school day to talk to many different career representatives and ask any questions you may have. Continue researching schools and careers as your interests change.

Make sure you clean up your social media accounts. Deleting questionable tweets or posts can help save you from a college rejection or issues during the job search process.

Last, but not least, while we want you to be serious about your grades and your studies, we also want you to enjoy your high school experience! Go to the prom, cheer on your classmates at an athletic game, join a club, see one of our theatrical performances.. High school is about getting your study habits down and getting good grades to get into college, but it's also about making memories to last a lifetime!

Senior Year Checklist

August

- ☐ Double check your schedule--does it coincide with your post-secondary plans?
- ☐ Search college/universities to apply to this fall!
- ☐ Student athletes should make sure they're discussing plans with their coach(es) and school counselor to ensure eligibility.
- ☐ Narrow down your list of colleges and start applying!
- ☐ Complete your college essay!
- ☐ If applying for a job, make sure you double check all requirements for the application.

September

- ☐ Continue applying to colleges and/or jobs you are interested in.
- ☐ Visit with college/career representatives that come visit at CPHS- REMEMBER!! YOU MUST DO ONE CAREER DISCOVERY MEETING IN SENIOR YEAR TO GRADUATE!
- ☐ Attend the CPHS College & Career Fair!
- ☐ Check out scholarships in Naviance- APPLY!
- ☐ Finalize your list of people to ask for letters of recommendation!
- ☐ Complete your resume/Brag Sheet
- ☐ Don't forget about your community service hours!

October

- ☐ Keep your grades up!
- ☐ Sign up for SAT and/or ACT again if you need to retake them.
- ☐ Finalize Early Action / Early Decision applications, if applicable.

November

- ☐ Request your transcripts to be sent to colleges via Naviance
- ☐ Submit all college apps and supplemental app forms online- the deadline for many Early Action apps is November 1st!
- ☐ Sign up for SAT/ACT if you need to retake!
- ☐ Notify Mrs. McCaleb in the guidance office once you have your post-secondary plans solidified. Career, College, or military, we'll add your status to the Wall of Fame!
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December / January

- ☐ Study for finals!
- ☐ Make sure your applications have been received by your colleges. If you haven't received confirmation, CALL EACH ADMISSIONS OFFICE to verify all application materials have been received
- ☐ Double check regular admissions deadlines.
- ☐ If you're deferred by your top choice, contact the admissions office to see what else you may be able to do.
- ☐ Request mid-year transcripts to be sent to schools **only if requested by the college.**
- ☐ Additional financial aid and scholarship apps may be required by your school(s). Check with your college/university regarding "institution specific" financial aid.
- ☐ Keep your grades up this semester!
- ☐ Fill out the FAFSA!

Senior Year Checklist CONTINUED...

February

☐ Make any needed corrections to the FAFSA based on tax returns.

☐ Continue checking Naviance for any new scholarships--APPLY!

☐ Deferred/Waitlisted? Write a brief letter highlighting all achievements and activities since your original app was submitted.

☐ Mail all supplemental financial aid documents requested by college(s)- review acceptances and compare financial aid packages.

March

☐ Show up and participate! Good grades & good behavior are important every day!

April

☐ Make sure you're on track for graduation!

☐ If you haven't already, meet with a college or career rep for your Career Discovery Meeting-IT IS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT TO HAVE ONE DONE IN SENIOR YEAR!!

May

☐ Study for finals!

☐ Accept financial aid awards offered by the college you are going to attend.

☐ Send an email to colleges that you will not be attending to let them know your plans.

☐ Write "Thank You" notes to those who wrote you letters of recommendation!

☐ Keep focused! If your final semester grades drop significantly, your college has the right to place you on academic probation or revoke your offer of admission.

☐ Request your final transcripts be sent

☐ Practice interviewing skills if you're interviewing for a job. Dress to impress!!