Rittman High School Senior Timeline

August/September:

- Sign up to see admissions reps when they visit RHS. Watch the TV's for upcoming visits.
- Make a list of colleges & universities that interest you. Visit their websites & campuses, request information. Consider using the Common Application – it allows you to fill out one application for multiple colleges. See Mrs. Humes if you need help getting started.
- Begin filling out college applications. Pay attention to the application **deadlines**!
- Attend ALL senior seminars. Watch for emails/texts from final forms with the date and time.
- Register to take the ACT/SAT if needed @ https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act.html or http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/.
- If your college application requires recommendation letters, please allow your teachers 1-2 weeks to complete your recommendation.
- Make sure you are checking your emails for scholarships. I forward scholarship opportunities when they are received.
- Pay attention to the guidance webpage for scholarship opportunities as well as the websites of the colleges/universities to which you are applying. Check out **fastweb.com**, **scholarships.com, scholarships360, bigfuture.collegeboard.org,** & finally check with your parent's place of employment to see if they offer scholarships.
- Get a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID for yourself & your parent(s) from https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/landing for financial aid purposes. Select create an account.
- Have your parents look up and keep their tax information in one location (it will be needed to fill out the FAFSA- Free Application for Federal Student Aid), which can be completed online at https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa. **FAFSA opens around October 1! It may open earlier!**
    - You will need your 2025 taxes to complete the FAFSA.

October:

- Complete the FASFA form online at https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa as soon as possible. Make sure your parents have their income tax information from 2025 readily available as it is needed to complete the form. Some merit scholarships require that you submit the FAFSA.
    - You will need your 2025 taxes to complete the FAFSA.
    - If you filed electronically, it should pull your tax information.
- After completing the FAFSA, check your email regularly as you will receive a SAI (Student Aid Index) – **review it**, very carefully, **for accuracy**.
- Narrow down your college choices & apply for admission.
- Bring any school counselor recommendation forms/college prep forms to Mrs. Humes for completion.
    - If a transcript needs to be mailed, submit a transcript request form (available online on the guidance webpage) signed by a parent or guardian. ***You get three (3) transcripts sent for FREE – it is $3.00 per transcript after you use your three free transcripts***.
- Apply for Early Action/Early Decision if you have a "first choice". Other applications are also welcomed early! The **deadline** for early action/early decision is ***November 1st*****. Most students apply for early action.**

- Early action – You submit the application by November 1st & receive the school's decision by mid-December. This is ***non-binding*** meaning the student can still choose to enroll elsewhere.
- Early decision – this is a ***binding*** commitment to enroll. If you are offered admission under early decision and the financial aid offered by the school, if requested, is acceptable, the candidate must withdraw all other applications to other institutions and enroll at that institution. Applications should be submitted by the end of October.

- Register to take the ACT/SAT. Pay attention to the registration deadlines. Register at https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html or http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/.
  - ACT Test Fees:
    - $68.00 (English, math, reading sections); $4.00 additional to add science.
    - $25 more for the ACT with writing
  - SAT Test Fees:
    - $68.00
- If you haven't already done so, get an FSA ID for yourself & your parent(s) from https://studentaid.gov/help/create-fsa-id for financial aid purposes. You and your parent/guardian must have different emails and phone numbers for verification purposes.

November:

- If you and your parent/guardian haven't started the FAFSA, please get that completed as soon as possible! The application opened October 1. Make sure to check your email, regularly, to review your SAI (Student Aid Index) for accuracy.
- Keep your grades up! Some schools request a mid-year report in January!
- Inform your coaches or athletic director about any interest you might have for scholarships.
- Continue completing college applications and checking for scholarship eligibility.
- If you haven't started applying for scholarships, begin now! Remember to check your emails. I forward some scholarship opportunities through email!
- Double check deadlines for your college applications. Regular admissions **deadline** is ***December 1st***.

December:

- Make sure you are PASSING your SEMESTER CLASSES; graduation depends on it!!
- The **Local Scholarship booklet** will be available this month. Check out the guidance website. More information will be sent to you via email and/or senior seminars on how to apply for local scholarships.
- Use holiday break to complete scholarship applications, including our local scholarships, and visit any colleges you are interested in attending. Don't forget to check out **fastweb.com**, **scholarships.com, scholarships360, bigfuture.collegeboard.org,** & your parent's place of employment for scholarships.
- **Have you taken the ACT/SAT?** Be sure you have or have signed up to take it! You will need:
  - A calculator (check/replace your batteries)
  - Your admission ticket which you should have printed when you registered online
  - Your driver's license or state issued ID card

January:

- You're half way to Graduation ! Keep up the hard work!
- Continue to complete & submit scholarship applications.
- If you are not attending college or a trade school, start brainstorming a list of places where you would like to work or secure an apprenticeship. Don't forget to check out Wayne County Schools Career

Center if you are interested in pursuing further education in a specific field (i.e. Nursing, Welding, HVAC etc.).

February:

- Make sure your applications have been received by the colleges/universities. You should receive acknowledgement from them; if you haven't, contact them.
- Monitor all of your college applications and keep track of your notifications and deadlines.
- If you have not visited the colleges or universities of your choice, do so as soon as possible!!
- Send in the deposit to your **1st choice** college/university, if you have been accepted and decide to attend.
- Continue to complete & submit scholarship applications.
- If you **DO NOT** plan on attending college, a trade school, or joining the military, begin working on your resume and cover letter for potential employers and request letters of recommendation from teachers, coaches, and community members (at least three).

March/April:

- Make sure you have sent all required information to the financial aid office at each college (check with each institution for what they need/want). A copy of your family's current income tax return is usually required.
- Continue applying for scholarships (deadlines are approaching ***FAST***).
- Discuss with your parents how your college education will be paid for and if you will need to work.
- Decide on which college you will attend and notify the other colleges/universities that you applied to that you will not be attending.
- If you are **NOT** attending college, send your cover letter, resume, and letters of recommendation to potential employers in **March**. In April, follow up with each company (if they haven't contacted you) to see if they have any openings for which you can interview.

May:

- Write thank you notes to those who have helped you with the college application process and inform them of your decision.
- Let Ms. Humes know where you will be attending. **DECISION DAY is MAY 1st.**
- Complete the ***Senior Survey*** located on the guidance website.
- Check on housing, financial aid, orientation, and any other information you need.
- Double check that you have requested a final transcript to be sent to the college/university you will be attending. **REMEMBER:** You must notify Mrs. Humes of the school you plan to attend ***BEFORE*** your last day of school. Failure to do so will result in a delay in scheduling your college classes. They must have a final transcript verifying you have graduated.
- Make sure you have sent transcripts for any college courses you took in high school to your college. You will need to go online to each college (University of Akron, Stark State, and/or University of Findlay) to request they forward your transcripts. I have links for each college on the guidance website.
- Graduate from high school on time and in good standing!!
- Relax & enjoy… you have **SURVIVED** your senior year!

June/July/August:

- Make sure your final high school transcript has been sent to the college/university you will be attending.
- Consider getting a summer job… it can help pay for some of your college expenses.
- Make a list of what you will need to take with you if you are living on campus.
- Connect with your roommate to get acquainted before school starts (email, text, etc.).
- Wait until after your first class meeting to buy your books/supplies. Consider renting books… it can help you save some $$$!
- Study hard & have FUN! ☺