HEWLETT HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS GUIDE for 12th Grade

What This Year Is About

Senior year is exciting, but **deadlines are real**. College applications, financial aid, schoolwork, graduation requirements, and senior events can pile up quickly. The goal is to stay organized, finish strong, and make thoughtful decisions about what comes next – all while becoming more independent.

Application Priorities

- **Use one master calendar.** Track application deadlines, recommendations, transcript requests, scholarships, and financial aid requirements in one place.
- **Complete applications carefully.** Avoid rushed answers and missing requirements.
- **Know each college's requirements.** Testing policies, supplemental essays, recommendations, and deadlines can vary by school.
- **Request materials early.** Follow school procedures for teacher recommendations, transcripts, and counselor materials.
- **Submit before the deadline.** Do not leave applications until the final hour when technology problems can create unnecessary stress.

Don't Check Out Too Early

Submitting applications does **not** mean senior year is over.

- Keep grades strong. Colleges may review midyear and final transcripts.
- Maintain good attendance and conduct.
- Make sure all graduation requirements are completed.
- Attend admitted-student events and ask questions before making a final college choice.

Parents Should Know

Students often underestimate how many separate deadlines senior year includes. Parents should understand the overall timeline while allowing students to take increasing ownership of the process.Families considering **Early Decision** should understand that it is a commitment before applying. This is also the year to begin transferring everyday responsibilities to the student rather than handling every task for them.

What to Watch For

- Senioritis affecting grades, attendance, or effort.
- Missed application or financial aid requirements.
- Choosing a college without understanding total cost or overall fit.
- Assuming an acceptance means grades and conduct no longer matter.
- Expecting independence after graduation without practicing it beforehand.



FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Organize deadlines, complete applications carefully, request materials early, and stay focused academically.	Complete financial aid requirements, scholarships, and any remaining applications while keeping grades strong.	Compare admission and financial aid offers, attend admitted-student events, make an informed final decision, and complete graduation requirements.

Senior Checklist

- ☐ Use one master deadline calendar.
- ☐ Complete and submit applications early.
- ☐ Finish FAFSA and other financial aid requirements.
- ☐ Apply for scholarships and local awards.
- ☐ Keep grades, attendance, and conduct strong.
- ☐ Compare college options based on cost and fit.
- ☐ Complete all graduation requirements.
- ☐ Practice managing everyday responsibilities independently.

KEY TAKEAWAY: Senior year is about more than getting accepted. Finish strong, meet every deadline, make a smart and affordable decision about what comes next, and leave high school ready for greater independence.