College Planning Checklist

Use this checklist during junior and senior year to help you during your college applications process.

Junior Year

☐ **Take the SAT or ACT**
Plan to take at least one SAT and one ACT between March of junior year and your senior summer.

☐ **Build your college list**
Make a list of the schools you are interested in using the SchooLinks School Search tool. Include two safeties, two reaches and three targets.

☐ **Build your resume**
Using the resume that you started in Speech class, add in your honors, achievements, extra-curriculars, education, part-time jobs and volunteer work.

☐ **Write your essays**
Getting started over the summer on your essays is a great way to prepare to submit your applications in the fall. Prompts can be found on the CCR website.

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Senior Fall

☐ **Recommendation letters**
Determine who you will reach out to to request letters of rec. These can be teachers, bosses, pastors, etc. Once you apply you will make the request in SchooLinks.

☐ **Request fee waivers**
If you are eligible for free/reduced lunch or other various government programs, you may be eligible for application fee waivers. See Mrs. J to apply.

☐ **Submit your applications**
Submit your applications on your platform of choice (Common App, ApplyTexas, etc.)

☐ **Apply for financial aid**
The FAFSA and TASFA open on October 1. It is a graduation requirement that all seniors complete an application or an opt-out form by the deadline.

☐ **Apply for scholarships**
Apply for as many scholarships as you are eligible for, both school-based and third party. Many third party scholarships are available in the SchooLinks Scholarship Matching tool.

Senior Spring

☐ **Apply for scholarships**
Keep applying for scholarships! Research and apply to one scholarship every week throughout senior year.

☐ **Review financial aid offers**
Colleges will post your financial aid offers in your applicant portals. Be sure to review them and accept or decline them if required.

☐ **Take the TSI**
Going in-state? Scored lower than a 530 math/480 english on the SAT? You need the TSI!

☐ **Choose a college**
Once you have decided where you plan to attend, take any necessary steps to communicate your decision.

☐ **Orientation and housing**
Schedule your new student orientation - where you will select your fall classes and put down your housing deposit as soon as you can.

☐ **Final steps**
Send final transcripts, enjoy those last senior memories and cross the stage at graduation. You've done it!