



SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE

2018-2019



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

- Make sure you are documenting all of your activities, including clubs, sports, volunteering, leadership, awards, work etc. You will need this information for your college applications and it is also very helpful to your School Counselor.
- Complete survey on Naviance Student prior to senior appointment.
- Meet with your counselor for your senior appointment. At this session, your counselor will discuss graduation requirements, post-high school plans and other pertinent topics. If considering applying Early Decision or Early Action, make your senior appointment early to discuss this option and how to proceed. Be ready to ask questions!
- If you are applying Early Decision, start preparing your application now and be aware of the Early Decision deadline, which is usually in October or November. **The Counseling Center staff requires 10 school days plus mailing time, to process applications.** Take this into consideration in order to meet the college deadline.
- Attend **Financial Aid Night** sponsored by the SHS Counseling Center on October 11, 2018 at 6pm.
- Visit www.FAFSA.ed.gov and register for a FSA ID. Your parent/ guardian must also register for a FSA ID.
- As soon after October 1st as possible, complete your FAFSA online and any additional forms required by the college. List the code numbers for the colleges you want to receive the information. **Don't assume that you won't receive any aid; apply for financial aid and let the professionals make that decision.**
- If you have not taken the SAT and/ or ACT, or you think you can improve your test scores by retaking these tests, plan to take them again in the fall. Please plan to register online for these exams. **Pay attention to registration deadlines and the photo requirement.**
- Register for the December SAT (Subject) tests if the colleges to which you are applying require them.
- Read the instructions on college applications thoroughly to find out what information is required (test scores, essays, recommendations, etc.) and when it must reach the college.
- Become familiar with the SHS Counseling Center college application procedures.
- Attend visits with college admissions representatives scheduled in the College & Career Center and be prepared with questions. All college visits to the high school are posted in Naviance Student. Check for updated information throughout the year and sign-up in Naviance Student.
- Create a complete checklist of test registration deadlines, fees, test dates, college application deadlines, and scholarship deadlines.
- Attend college fairs and college nights in the area. **The Marketplace Mall College Fair** is on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 from 6:30 pm-8 pm.
- Begin asking teachers to write you a supportive letter recommending you as a capable student ready to do college work. Be sure to give them ample time to prepare this letter. **Procrastination on your part does not constitute an emergency on theirs!**

NOVEMBER

- If your college has a **January 1 application deadline**, get your application materials **submitted** to the Counseling Center **no later than December 7, 2018. We CANNOT guarantee a request submitted after this date will be processed in time to be sent to colleges before December break.**



- Complete your applications and bring green sheets and application materials to the Counseling Center at least **10 school days**, in advance of the college application deadline.
- Ask a teacher or counselor to proofread and critique your college essays.
- Investigate sources of Financial Aid: College & Career Center, *The Counseling Connection*, the intended school, and Web sites.
- Check Naviance Student and *The Counseling Connection* newsletter for an updated list of scholarships for which you may be eligible. Applications are available in the College & Career Center and on Naviance Student.

DECEMBER



- Remind teachers that your recommendations are due soon.
- Complete any remaining applications with due dates in January and February.
- Some colleges (mostly private schools) require a second form, the CSS PROFILE (an additional financial aid document). Check the colleges for their deadline dates. There is a registration fee plus a charge per college.

JANUARY



- To request mid-year grades be sent to colleges to which you have applied, see Mrs. Leatzaw in the Counseling Office.
- Continue to work hard and maintain your grades.



FEBRUARY

- Continue to investigate and apply for scholarships.
- If you still haven't visited all of the colleges to which you have applied or been accepted, plan to visit during break.

MARCH

- Maintain your grades – all colleges request final transcripts.
- Continue to apply for scholarships and checking other financial aid possibilities.



APRIL



- If you can't decide between schools that have accepted you, plan to visit the schools again. Be sure to talk to current students about their experiences. If financial aid figures enter into your decision, ask the colleges that accepted you to explain their offers thoroughly.
- Be sure that you meet all deadlines for acceptance, deposits, housing, etc. If you fail to meet a deadline, you may lose your acceptance.
- May 1 is the national deadline for colleges to allow you to make a final decision. If a college has requested a non-refundable deposit or decision regarding your choice, before you have heard from all schools, request in writing, an extension until May 1. Any questions, see your counselor immediately.
- Once you have decided which college you will be attending, let that college know. Also, inform other colleges that have admitted you that you have accepted elsewhere, so that they may open up your place for someone else.



MAY

- Inform and make a deposit at one college. **Make sure this is done by May 1.**
- Complete Senior Exit Survey through link in *Google Drive* to inform your counselor of your final decision.
- Once you have been admitted, don't slack off academically. **All acceptances are based upon successful completion of your high school program.**

JUNE/JULY

- **Final transcripts will be sent according to the information you provide on your Senior Survey.** Be sure you have updated your college acceptance information.
- **Have a safe and enjoyable graduation. Be proud of your accomplishments!**
- **Enjoy your summer!**

