

# YOUR VERY OWN



# SENIOR YEAR



## CHECKLIST!

(ENJOY YOUR SENIOR YEAR **MORE** BY FOLLOWING AND COMPLETING THIS SIMPLE LIST!)

### AUGUST/SEPT:

- Meet with your **guidance counselor**, Mrs. Dipzinski!
- If you are **not satisfied** with your **ACT/SAT**, register to take it again!
- Overview a **college application** to get familiar with the different pieces of information that you will need to collect/organize.
- Double check with Mrs. Dipzinski that you are **on track to graduate**.
- **Schedule at least one college VISIT** in September.
- Attend **local college fairs** and information nights.
- KEEP YOUR **grades up** at HC (Don't fall for senioritis). Scholarships, Acceptance and **KEES \$** all depend on your grades.
- **Create a calendar to chart:**
  - \*\*\* Standardized Tests, Registration Deadlines and fees
  - \*\*\* College Application Due Dates
  - \*\*\* Financial Aid application forms & Deadlines (FAFSA opens Oct. 1)
  - \*\*\* Organize information for Recommendation Letters, transcripts and essays
- P.S. **HAVE FUN AND MAKE MEMORIES** (Welcome Back to School!)



### OCTOBER:

- The **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will be available this month and you can fill out the FAFSA, anytime after Oct. 1st. This form will determine your financial need for college. (What you are eligible as far as grants and loans from the federal gov..) Visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
- Determine what your colleges' **deadlines** are. (Rolling admission, priority, early decision, and early action deadlines).
- If you **cannot afford the application fees** that many colleges charge, ask your counselor to help you **request a fee waiver**.
- Finalize your college essays. Many schools will require that you submit at least one essay with your application.  
**(you will want to highlight what makes you, "YOU!") (This is your time to brag about all your strengths and gifts)**
- Fill out the **Personal Overview** form that Mrs. Dipzinski gave you. (She will have extra copies in her office).
- Request **personal recommendation forms** from teachers, counselors, coaches, and/or employers.
- **Research possible scholarships**. (This will take time, but it is WORTH the effort! ☺). Ask as many questions as possible and remember that you should *never* have to pay for scholarship information. (Watch out for scams).
- P.S. **HAVE FUN AND MAKE MEMORIES** (& Happy Halloween)



### NOVEMBER:

- If there are deadlines this month, **send in the applications by their due dates**.  
Have someone review the application before it is submitted.
- Send **high school transcripts**, if needed.
- Double check that your **scores have been sent directly to the colleges** to which you are applying.
- P.S. **HAVE FUN AND MAKE MEMORIES** (and Happy Thanksgiving)



# DECEMBER:

- Begin to organize regular decision applications and financial aid forms, which will be due in January and/or February.
- Register for any other SAT or ACT tests that you want to take. (Most colleges will ALWAYS take your highest score!)
- P.S. **HAVE FUN AND MAKE MEMORIES** (and Merry Christmas)



# January:

- **Watch closely** for **application deadlines** as early as January 1.
- Consider taking the **February ACT** (Most colleges will still accept this score.)
- Ask the office to send your **FIRST SEMESTER transcripts** to the schools where you applied.  
(Reason #1 not to get Senioritis... YOUR SENIOR GRADES do count)
- **File the FAFSA sooner than later. IF you have not completed the FAFSA, please do so as soon as possible.**  
The sooner you fill it out, the sooner you will have an idea of your financial aid options.  
*\*\*\* Remember, you can add up to 10 schools on the FAFSA. (With one click, you can send the FAFSA to 10 different schools).*
- P.S. **HAVE FUN AND MAKE MEMORIES** (and Happy **decision** time 😊)



# FEBRUARY/ MARCH/ APRIL :

- While you rest easy after turning in college applications, **DON'T SLACK OFF** in the classroom. The college you attend will want to see your second semester transcript. (Remember: NO SENIORITIS!)
- If you have not narrowed down your college search or made a final decision, please use all your resources and **communicate with Mrs. Dipzinski** until you feel satisfied and comfortable with your decision.
- Start to **compare financial aid packages**, and begin the process of making **your FINAL decision!** Go ahead and revisit your college of choice so that you feel even more confident in your decision.
- P.S. **HAVE FUN AND MAKE MEMORIES** (and Happy Easter)



# MAY:

- Some colleges need a **deposit and a written commitment by May 1<sup>st</sup>**.  
Communicate with your college of choice and figure out the necessary steps for officially committing to that school.  
Notify your counselor and pat yourself on the back!!! (**you did it!**)
- If you have been offered Financial Aid, be sure to **ACCEPT the offer and follow all the instructions** for all the various loans, grants and scholarships.
- If you have not made your final decision, contact Mrs. Dipzinski!
- P.S. **CONGRATULATIONS ON ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK!**

