**Senior Year Checklist**

August/September

* Be sure that you are continuing a schedule with courses of rigor and do not become overcommitted (i.e., too many clubs, sports, jobs, etc.).
* Continue researching your Top 10 colleges with the purpose of narrowing down to a Top 3–5.
* Visit colleges of interest and attend college fairs.
* Determine if you are applying for an “impacted major,” which may require higher admission standards.
* Fill out college applications early! Some colleges need applications in by October 1st for certain housing and scholarship options.
* Narrow your list of potential colleges to 1–2 “stretch schools” where you might be on the lower GPA and SAT®/ACT® score average, 1–2 “strong match schools” where you meet the schools’ average GPA and SAT/ACT average, and 1 “fallback school” that you are certain you will get into.
* Examine college applications and record application deadlines in your agenda/planner.
* Determine application options (early decision, early action, or regular decision).
* Update résumé.
* Ask for an unofficial transcript.
* Compute final GPA to be submitted on applications.
* Ask select teachers/counselors/others to write letters of recommendation.
* Keep your grades up and stay in challenging courses! 75% of revoked acceptances are because seniors do poorly in classes or take too light of a load!

October

* Apply for your FAFSA pin.
* Register for by October 7th for the November SAT
* Revise college essays for submission.
* Request fee waivers from your counselor (if applicable).
* Submit public college applications online.
* Submit applications if applying “early decision.”
* Be sure you include courses you’ve taken at a community college on your applications.
* Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 1 scholarship for the month of October.
* Study for the final SAT/ACT test.

November/December

* Submit applications for private colleges/universities.
* Research financial aid requirements and deadlines.
* Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 3 scholarships in November and December.
* Keep those grades up! Reach out for help if you feel like you are falling behind.

January

* Complete the FAFSA application and worksheet.
* Make sure all test scores (SAT, ACT, AP®) have been submitted to colleges/universities where you have applied.
* Submit your FAFSA as close to January 1st as possible.
* Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships for the month of January.
* Be sure to contact colleges early if there were unexpected changes to your class schedule.

February/March

* Enroll and take English and Math Placement Tests for colleges. (Tests are generally given Feb. through May.)
* Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 3 scholarships for February and March.
* Research dorm applications and deadlines.
* At the end of March, follow up with colleges that you haven’t heard from to be sure they have everything they need (transcript, SAT/ACT scores, essays, fee waiver, etc.).

April

* Study for upcoming IB exams.
* Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships for April. (Look into scholarships at the college/university that you plan to attend.)
* Be sure to submit your housing application to the school that you plan to attend.
* Research the placement tests that you will need to take (and pass) at the college that you plan to attend.
* Were you denied admission? Don’t give up, contact the admissions office, and ask if there is an appeal process.
* Don’t slack! Finish strong. A drop in grades is the number one reason that colleges revoke admissions (over 50%).

May/Early June

* Take AP exams. Be sure test scores are sent to the appropriate colleges.
* Look into taking college courses at a local community college (especially courses that cover any remediation or first-year classes, if you haven’t passed).
* Be sure you send official transcripts from courses taken at the community college to the college you will attend.
* Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships for May. (Look into scholarships at the college/university that you plan to attend.)
* Complete AVID Senior Data.
* Sign up to be an AVID tutor next year.
* See your physician to get a meningitis shot, as you will need this to attend college.
* Write thank-you notes to teachers and your counselor for helping you through the process.
* Take a day to celebrate the fact that you graduated and are one step closer to your dreams of college.