

Senior Year Checklist

September

- Narrow down your **list of colleges**. Collect information about the application and financial aid process at each school.
- **Register for the SAT and/or ACT** if you didn't take a college entrance exam as a junior or want to take one again. Remember: Your counselor can help with fee waivers if you qualify.
- **Create a checklist** and calendar to keep track of standardized test dates, college application due dates, and financial aid deadlines. Make note of the other materials, such as recommendations or essays, you'll need to complete your applications.
- **Request official transcripts through Parchment**
- Create a **high school resume** to send to teachers and your counselor to use when writing recommendations. Give teachers/counselor at least 1 full week to complete your recommendation.

October

- **Complete the FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) starting October 1.
- Some colleges will have deadlines (rolling, priority, early decision, and early action) as early as this month.
- If you cannot afford the application fees that many colleges charge, ask your counselor to help you request a **fee waiver**.
- **Research scholarships**. Ask your counselor, your colleges, and local religious and civic groups about scholarship opportunities. You should *never* pay for scholarship information.

November/December

- Finalize and send any **early decision** or early action applications due this month. Have a parent, teacher, counselor, or other adult review the application before it is submitted.
- Make sure testing companies have **sent your scores** directly to the colleges to which you are applying. **(NWHS does NOT send your ACT or SAT scores)**
- Every college will require a copy of your transcript from your high school. These are requested through Parchment.

January-April

- **Acceptance letters** and financial aid offers will start to arrive. Review your acceptances, **compare financial aid packages**, and visit your final choices.
- Don't slack in the classroom. The college you decide to attend will want to see your second semester transcript.
- If you are **wait-listed** by a college you really want to attend, visit, call, and write the admission office to make your interest clear. Ask how you can strengthen your application.

May

- May 1 is typically the date when the college you plan to attend requires a commitment and deposit. When you've made your **college decision**, notify your counselor.
- Request that your **final transcript** be sent to the college you will be attending through Parchment (After Graduation)