

Senior Checklist:

Create a master list or calendar that includes:

- College application due dates
- Tests you'll take (ACT) with fees, dates, and registration deadlines

And all of the following...

A+ Scholarship

- Make sure you are eligible for the A+ Scholarship
- If you haven't had A+ Tutoring, make sure it's in your schedule this year
- You must have at least 95% attendance through all four years of high school - don't ruin it this year!

College Applications

- Start early
- Narrow your list of colleges to between three and five
 - Plan to visit as many of these as possible
- Be sure to have your ACT scores sent to the colleges you're applying to
- Email Mr. Hall and ask him to send your transcript to every college you apply for!
 - Priority deadline to apply is December 1st (if interested in College of the Ozarks - apply now!!)
 - May be application fee (most colleges waived this)
 - If you qualify for free/reduced lunch, your fee will be waived (may have to come to counseling office for this)

- Things that you may need:
 - References (usually 3)
 - **Essay - ask if English teachers can proofread it!**
- You will be writing the same information OVER AND OVER

TIPS FOR APPLYING:

1. Start early
 2. Be consistent (use same name on all your forms)
 3. Be careful (careless mistakes could hurt your chances of being accepted)
 4. Only submit an application once
- Let every college you get accepted into know if you accept or reject their offer of admission by May 1st
- Visit your final college before accepting!

Recommendation Letters

- Ask your favorite teachers **NOW!**
- Get at least 3 letters
 - Boss, community service member, pastor, etc.
- Create a list of accomplishments and extracurricular activities to give them
 - You can reuse for multiple applications and scholarships

Scholarships

- Create list of accomplishments and extracurricular activities (can reuse for recommendations and applications)
- Plan times to search and apply for scholarships!
 - Check out scholarships on the school counseling website
- Ask colleges that you are thinking about applying to about their institutional scholarships

- Watch for local scholarships (spring)!!
- Ask English teachers to proofread essays**
- APPLY!!**

FAFSA

- Fill out the FAFSA (opens on October 1st)
 - Free Application for Federal Student Aid
 - We will have a FAFSA night for you and your parent to help with this application
 - You will need the previous year's tax information
 - The sooner you apply, the more money you could be eligible for!! The priority deadline to fill this out is February 1st!

MSHSAA

- Must earn 3 credits in a semester in order to be eligible!
 - You can not fail a course if you have a Work Pass or TA if you plan to participate in extracurriculars

ACT

- Check Registration dates
(<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>)
- Save these in a Google Folder!!**
 - Do your best!

Going straight into your career?

- Come up with a plan NOW instead of in the spring!
 - What do I want to do?
 - Is this a career/could this turn into a career?
 - Job: Just pays the bills
 - Career: Room to advance, and potential to increase your income
- Read and reflect:*** Settling for a job rather than a career can leave you feeling unfulfilled in the future. Earning money sooner rather than later is nice, but is that where you want to be/what you want to do in the future? It might be worth going to a school or doing an apprenticeship to learn the skills you need for a career you will enjoy.
- THINK! What am I going to do with my money? How can I be responsible and save/invest well for the future?
- Explore job opportunities, and check to see what the job requires (education, experience)
- Create a resume!
- ***Steps to follow:***
 1. Find a job opening (online, word of mouth, etc.)
 - a. Find out how to apply (in person, online)
 2. Create, or update, your resume
 3. Create a cover letter
 4. Submit application
 5. Interview for the job
- **Tips...**
 - Clean up your social media
 - Follow up after the interview (email or “Thank You” card)
 - Find someone doing what you want to do. Ask them how they got there, and if you can see what it’s like (job shadow, apprenticeship, open positions)

CHECK DEADLINES!!

CHECK YOUR EMAIL!!

ASK FOR HELP!!

Go to college visits and talk to the reps!!

We will (hopefully) take two visits in the Fall and possibly one in the spring - let me know if there are specific colleges you would like to visit