

STUDENT ADVISORY ACTIVITY

11th GRADE

SESSION #25

Topic: Looking Ahead to Senior Year/Summer Plans

Time Required: 35 minutes

Objective:

The students will be able to identify elements of their suggested senior year planning calendar.

School Core Values & Beliefs Expectations Codes:

Skilled Information Processor, Effective Communicator and Producer, Self-Directed Learner, Community Contributor

Activity Statement:

Group will discuss questions and concerns about senior year, and review handout. Students will share summer plans.

Materials Needed:

Senior Year Planning Calendar timeline handout (attached)

Procedure:

- Talk about any questions that the juniors may have in regards to senior year.
- Give handout and go through each month and then answer any questions the students may have. Emphasize working hard academically but taking time to appreciate the little things.
- Optional: Share your personal experience about your senior year of high school.
- Share plans for summer. (vacation, jobs, internships, community service, volunteering, camp counseling...)

Discussion Questions:

Do you have any questions about what to expect during your senior year?

What should you be doing during your senior year to prepare for college?

What plans do you have for summer?

Closure:

Senior year requires planning and attention to deadlines. However, staying focused academically is still important. Take time to appreciate the little things during your last year here.

Senior Year Planning Calendar

September

- Familiarize yourself with www.collegeboard.com.
- If you have not held any leadership positions while in high school, now is the time to step up and assume leadership of one of those organizations.
- Review college materials, college guidebooks, and other resources to narrow your college list.
- Begin to finalize list of colleges with your family and guidance counselor.
- Consider visits, overnight stays, and interviews at your top college choices. Visit (personally or virtually) any colleges you have not already seen.
- Register for one last shot at the SAT or ACT if you haven't taken one of them yet—or if you are not happy with earlier scores.
- Begin thinking about teachers who would be willing to write strong letters of recommendation on your behalf.
- Begin brainstorming ideas for your college essays.
- Request (or download from college's website) any applications that you do not have. Be sure to review each college's application requirements carefully.
- Attend college fairs for one final review of college choices.
- Be sure your senior year mix of classes still includes challenging, college-prep courses.
- Stay focused on grades.

October

- Finalize list of college choices to a reasonable number, ideally with one or more “stretch” schools and one “safety” school.
- Create a file for each of your college choices – and keep all materials organized.
- Consider creating a master schedule of all your application deadlines.
- Begin working on drafts of your college essays.
- Start working on college applications.
- If you have a clear “first choice” college, consider applying for early decision.
- Have standardized testing service send your scores to your list of colleges.
- Stay focused on grades.

November

- Finalize drafts of your college essays, but only after numerous edits, rewrites, and reviews by people you trust (family, friends, teachers).
- Complete college applications and put packets in the mail.
- Be sure your guidance counselor knows your final list of colleges, as well as your preferences.
- Request key financial aid and scholarship information from your list of colleges.
- Stay focused on grades.

December

- If you applied for early decision to a college, expect notification this month.
- If not completed, finish and mail remainder of college applications.
- Start detailed financial aid search- all sources for scholarships and loans.
- Stay focused on grades.

January

- If applying for financial aid, get started on preparations by obtaining a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.
- Stay focused on grades.
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February

- Complete the FAFSA, if possible.
- Keep track of your college applications; be sure all schools have received all your materials.
- Stay focused on grades.

March

- College decision letters begin arriving.
- Celebrate your acceptances, decide about your wait lists, and deal positively with your rejections.
- Finalize financial aid applications.
- Continue searching and applying for scholarships and grants.
- Stay focused on grades.

April

- Make decision about college choice from among the colleges that accepted you.
- Notify all colleges that accepted you of your final decision.
- Submit tuition deposit to your college of choice.
- Continue searching and applying for scholarships and grants.
- Stay focused on grades.

May

- Be sure to submit paperwork for room and board.
- Continue searching and applying for scholarships and grants.
- Stay focused on grades.

June

- Celebrate your high school success!
- Send thank you notes to everyone who helped you this year (if you haven't already).

- Start planning for college. Watch college's summer deadlines (orientations, housing options, registration...) closely.