

# Senior Year At-A-Glance

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## August

- Review your career plans and decide what type of school is right for you.
- Visit any college campuses you still want to see.
- Narrow your college list to 5-7 schools (include reach, target, and safety schools).
- Visit college websites for application materials and deadlines.
- Register for the SAT/ACT if you haven't taken it, or if you hope to improve your score.
- Start researching scholarships – set up accounts on national search engines.

## September

- Meet with Ms. Mock to be sure your list includes colleges appropriate to your academic and personal record. Review your transcript with Ms. Mock to ensure accuracy. Make sure you turn in your Brag Sheet by the appropriate deadline.
- Meet with college representatives who visit RCHS – sign up with Ms. van Ravenswaay if you plan to attend.
- Attend the College Fair – September 25 at RCHS – make sure to speak to representatives from the schools to which you shall apply.
- Sign up for the October SAT or ACT and remember to have scores sent directly to colleges.
- Start asking teachers and employers for letters of recommendation to include with your applications. Make sure you give recommenders at least three weeks to write the letter. Provide recommendation forms and any special instructions and have recommenders return their letters directly to Ms. van Ravenswaay. Be thoughtful! Write thank-you notes to those who write recommendations and keep them informed of your decisions.

## October

- Take the SAT or ACT.
- Have official SAT/ACT scores sent by the testing agency to the colleges on your list. You are allotted four free score reports to send to colleges of the NCAA if you are completing the Eligibility process. There is a small fee for additional score reports to be sent to schools.
- Work on your college applications.
- Whether you are applying early decision, early action, rolling, or regular decision, APPLY BEFORE THE FINAL DEADLINE!
- Find out which financial aid applications your colleges require and when they are due.
- Some private (and public) universities may require you to register for the CSS/Financial Aid Profile. This determines your qualifications for financial aid.
- Sign up for the November or December ACT and/or SAT, if necessary.
- If required for admission, register to take any SAT Subject tests in November (you cannot take the SAT Reasoning Test on the same day as Subject tests).

## November

- Take the SAT or ACT.
- Finish and submit your applications. It is highly recommended that you submit them EARLY.
- Begin working on any required financial aid applications.

## **December**

- Download the worksheet for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). You and your parents need to get your PIN, which is your electronic signature. See complete instructions on the FAFSA website.
- Watch for deadlines and submit them two weeks before they are due.

## **January**

- Submit your completed FAFSA online as soon as possible after January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- KEEP COPIES OF ALL FORMS YOU SUBMIT!!!
- It is helpful if your parents prepare their income tax returns as soon as possible. The information is needed for the FAFSA and schools may request them to prove eligibility for financial aid.
- Attend financial aid presentations (dates TBA)
- Do your best on your semester exams. Ms. van Ravenswaay will send your first semester transcript to all your schools, so be sure not to slack off.
- If there are additional forms that need to be completed at the end of the semester, be sure to give them to Ms. van Ravenswaay or Ms. Mock by January 21.

## **February**

- If you have not done so, submit the FAFSA as soon as possible.
- When you complete a FAFSA online, you will be notified of your EFC (Expected Family Contribution) almost immediately.
- If you complete the FAFSA on paper and more than four weeks have passed without an acknowledgment, contact FAFSA at 800/433-3243. They will need your name, social security number, address, and date of birth exactly as it was written on your FAFSA.
- Continue to check national scholarship search engines for new scholarships for which you are eligible.
- Use the College and Career weekly updates and check with Ms. van Ravenswaay about local scholarships for which you may apply.

## **March**

- Follow through on all financial aid applications and information requested by the college.
- Schedule medical appointments for any vaccinations, etc., required prior to entering college.
- Sign up and pay for your AP exams, if you have any.

## **April**

- Before deciding on a school, compare financial aid packages offered. Be sure to have visited the campuses before making your final decision.
- Once you have chosen, send a deposit by the required May 1 deadline.

## **May**

- Take your AP exams. You can select to have your scores sent directly to your school.
- Make sure you tell Ms. Mock where you will be attending school so she can send your final transcript to your college.
- Enjoy your final month of high school!

## **June**

- Start assembling items needed for college – check with websites for lists of what to bring.
- Sign up for orientation sessions and fall semester classes.
- Have fun and relax!