

## COLLEGE APPLICATION "TO-DO" LIST

Below you will find the steps to completing your application requirements for colleges. Your school counselor is always available to help along the way.

- ✓ Compile a list of colleges to which you will apply. Factors to consider are GPA, rigor of your courses (including senior year), SAT/ACT scores, intended major, etc. Most students tend to apply to 5 to 7 schools.
  - You should apply to at least one...
    - Safety School: Your qualifications are above their admission requirements
    - Target School: Your qualifications fall within the middle 50% range of their accepted applicants
    - Reach School: Your qualifications are below the middle 50% of their accepted applicants but you would love to attend the school. A reach school may also be a school for which you are qualified but that has a very low acceptance rate, which means not all qualified applicants will be accepted.
  - To find out more about a particular school...
    - Attend the College Fair at RCHS
    - Meet with college representatives when they visit the school counseling office (check the College and Career Weekly Update for the schedule)
    - Meet with your school counselor to discuss options
    - Visit college campuses! If you aren't able to travel, the websites below are a great resource.
      - [www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com) – college and scholarship information
      - <http://Ecampustours.com> – virtual tours of about 1300 college campuses
      - [www.youiniversitytv.com](http://www.youiniversitytv.com) – virtual tours of campuses, given by current students
- ✓ Register for the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and/or ACT one more time, if needed. **It is your responsibility to send your official scores to all of the colleges you apply to.**
- ✓ Meet with your school counselor to review your progress.
  - Make sure you have filled out all of the required forms (Brag Sheet, Transcript Request). The Brag Sheet is due October 1 for any application due before Winter Break and December 1 for any application due January 1 or later.
  - Most schools require a **Secondary School Report** as part of the application. You need to download this college-specific form from the college's website and give it to your school counselor along with your other school counseling forms. Make sure to fill out the student section at the top prior to giving it to your counselor.
- ✓ Ask teachers to write recommendation letters. Some schools require more than one teacher recommendation so make sure to check to see how many you need. It is nice to give a copy of the brag sheet to each teacher.
- ✓ Get feedback on your essay! Counselors are available during Lunch Bunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and after school by appointment. You may want to also ask an English teacher to proofread.
- ✓ Financial Aid
  - Plan to complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1
  - Attend the financial aid workshop at RCHS in January. Parents are encouraged to attend!
  - Check the College and Career Update weekly for scholarship information.
- ✓ Notify your school counselor and Ms. van Ravenswaay of the school you will attend next fall so we can send out your final transcript after graduation.