

## What do I do next?

### **Junior Year**

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#### **February:**

- ☐ Create a personal Gmail account just for college and scholarship stuff. Remember to keep it professional.
- ☐ If taking the SAT or ACT, create your accounts and register for the spring tests.
- ☐ Finalize your initial list of schools - this can change, but at least have a starting point.
- ☐ If you are planning to take AP classes, research which of your schools take what APs and what score you need to have (sometimes this differs by school or program) BEFORE you create your senior year schedule.
- ☐ *Side note* - if you are going into any medical arts (pre-med, physical therapy, etc.), consider taking statistics. It won't replace the stats class at college, but it will give you a crash-course.

#### **March through May:**

- ☐ Start Applying for Scholarships ASAP!!! It is never too soon; you don't need to know where you will go to college to apply.
- ☐ Decide where you want to visit and go! Try to visit during the day and during the week if possible and ASK QUESTIONS!

#### **June:**

- ☐ Draft your college essay while you are in school and can ask questions.
- ☐ Create your account and work on your common app
- ☐ Prepare a High School resume to give teachers for recommendation letters

- ☐ Ask teachers for recommendations in writing BEFORE June 15. You know you're going to need them, ask them now.

### **Summer**

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#### **July-August:**

- ☐ Apply for scholarships like it's your full time job
- ☐ Finalize Essay
- ☐ Decide if you are planning to do early decision/action/rolling admission and figure out the deadlines.
- ☐ Use the summer to your advantage to get as much done as possible. If you are involved in activities, time will not be your friend.

### **Senior Year**

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#### **September:**

- ☐ Complete your Common App.
- ☐ Submit to guidance whatever forms they need from you to send your application.
- ☐ Let guidance counselor know in writing (via email) if you will be applying for ED/EA/Rolling
- ☐ Follow up on Teacher Rec Letters! Trust me, they have a million things on their plate, you need to follow up.
- ☐ Submit any ED or EA applications due September 30 or October 1.
- ☐ Before the end of the month, follow up with guidance on the status of your applications.

#### **October:**

- ☐ **Plan to have all other applications submitted by October 15. DON'T WAIT!!!** The sooner you send, the

sooner you will be accepted and have a plan, and the more likely you will get in - ESPECIALLY TEST OPTIONAL!.

- ☐ Decide which will be your “safe school”: the college you KNOW you can easily get into.
- ☐ FAFSA portal opens Oct. 1, start your FAFSA! You will need your parents/guardians for this.

#### **November-December:**

- ☐ Complete FAFSA if not already done.
- ☐ If you have received any acceptances from either ED or EA, READ EVERYTHING and begin planning your finances.
- ☐ Breathe and Focus on your grades - **KEEP YOUR GRADES. UP.** All college acceptances are “contingent upon successful completion of high school”...read the fine print. They reserve the right to say “no thanks” if you let your grades slip because of senioritis.

**January-February:** If you have met all of these deadlines so far, you should be receiving acceptances. Once you have them, look for these dates and follow up ASAP:

- ☐ Deposit due date
- ☐ Housing Deposit due date
- ☐ Setting up a student account
- ☐ Any financial responsibility or aid dates
- ☐ Scheduling Information
- ☐ Any additional deadlines

***If you are planning to attend Mercer County Community College in September:***

- ☐ APPLY!!
- ☐ Complete any placement testing OR submit SAT/ACT for placement.
- ☐ Look for class registration dates.

#### **March:**

- ☐ Complete any outstanding tasks for the school you will be attending.
- ☐ If you are going to MCCC, this is typically when registration opens - REGISTER ASAP! Freshman classes are the hardest to get because EVERYONE needs them!
- ☐ If your college will allow you to register at this point, do it!
- ☐ CHoose your dorm/housing and follow the guidelines.
- ☐ DO NOT FORGET YOUR SCHOOL WORK! Senioritis is not an excuse to slack off. Your colleges want you to finish strong.