

Wondering about how to get the most out of high school and to prepare for your future?
Read these tips to make sure you stay on track!

SENIOR CALENDAR 2020-2021

September

- Start your Common App if you have an interest in a college that requires it.
- Review your HS transcript with your counselor. Know your GPA and class rank. Pay attention to the Hathaway Scholarship requirements when you schedule your classes. Learn how to calculate GPA.
- Review and gather information about colleges of interest to you. Request free catalogs and admissions information. If you haven't already, visit college campuses you plan to apply to.
- Register for the ACT / SAT if you haven't taken it, or you want to take it again.
- Schedule a **Senior Interview** with counselor to discuss your post-high school plans.
- Become familiar with your school's college resources. Listen for school announcements about college or military rep visits. Watch for weekly information bulletins that come from the Counseling Office. Check with the Counseling Office for an ongoing list of scholarships available. Check your college website and other websites for scholarships.
- Create a two week "Scholarship Check" reminder on your phone.
- Work on a generic essay that can be used for college admissions or scholarships. Save it on your computer. Make sure it is well written! Have others (English teachers) look it over for suggestions and editing purposes.
- Register online with fastweb.com and scholarships.com for scholarship opportunities.
- Attend special programs, such as **Senior/Parent Planning Night in September 17th from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the PHS Auditorium.**
- Attend **Virtual Planning Days September 22 & 23 during Panther Time in the PHS Commons.**
- Students & parents each need to register for a FAFSA ID at www.fafsa.ed.gov. and use the FSA ID link on the home page. You will not need to apply for a new ID if you have one from an older child. (This ID will be needed to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid form after October 1st.)
- Sign up for the TRIO reminder app.
- Click here to download your own copy of the National Association for College Admission Counseling Guide to the College Admission Process
<https://www.nacacnet.org/globalassets/documents/publications/gcap2018final.pdf>
- Ask your counselor for advice!

SENIOR CALENDAR CONTINUED...

October

- Attend special info programs, such as **FAFSA Drop In Help Night October 8th from 4-6:30 pm in PHS Library**.
- Submit your FAFSA, if you have not done so already.
- Update or create your academic resume and individual activity / work resume. These will be a helpful summary of your accomplishments for college and scholarship applications, and very helpful to give to those who write your letters of recommendations.
- Meet with college reps that come to your school. Attend college fairs. Continue to visit colleges.
- Begin asking teachers, counselors, employers, coaches for letters of recommendation. Give them a copy of your academic resume. This provides them with some additional information about who you are. Allow them time, checking back within a month. Provide them with a stamped and addressed envelope if the letter is to be sent directly to the college. Don't forget to send them thank you notes!
- Take the ACT and/or SAT exams, if needed.
- Consider taking the ASVAB for military entrance and/or career exploration.
- Check the Counseling Office & bulletin boards for scholarship opportunities & college/military rep visits.
- Have you done your Senior Interview yet?
- Ask your counselor for advice!

November

- Make sure your FAFSA financial aid application is submitted to the colleges of your choice.
- Take SAT exam if it is required or suggested by the college you are interested in attending.
- ASVAB Test—did you sign up?
- Make sure you are very aware of application and financial aid deadlines for the schools you want to apply to. Check their websites and mark the dates on your calendar!
- Attend events such as Application/Admissions Day and UW Cowboy Kickoff in the PHS Library.
- Find out about upcoming campus visit days at colleges you may be interested in attending.
- Gather official transcripts to send with your college applications if you are interested in early admissions.
- Make an appointment with counselor to sign up for NWC spring semester classes.
- Keep up your grades!
- Have you done your **Senior Interview** yet?
- Ask your counselor for advice!

SENIOR CALENDAR CONTINUED...

December

- Take ACT and/or SAT exams.
- Ask the Counseling Office to send your transcript and immunization record to a colleges once you have applied.
- Work on college admission applications. Goal is to have them finished and submitted before winter break.
- Continue applying for scholarships.
- Do well on your first semester finals!
- Ask your counselor for advice!

January

- Attend special info programs such as **FAFSA Drop In Make-Up Night in January from 4-6:30 pm in PHS Library.**
- When choosing classes, be sure to check with your counselor about college/career preparation and Hathaway Scholarship requirements, especially with the new rules.
- Submit transcripts with mid-year grades as needed to the colleges you have applied to.
- Pay attention to scholarship and college admission deadlines.
- Now is the time to up your scholarship check, change your “Scholarship Check” reminder to once a week.
- Plan to attend college campus visit days.
- Ask your counselor for advice!

February

- Apply for more scholarships. Continue to check with your counselor for scholarship opportunities. Some individual college scholarship deadlines are in February, others in March. **KNOW YOUR DEADLINES.**
- If you are planning on taking college classes over the summer, check to see whether you need to take a placement test.
- Let your counselor know when you receive any scholarship awards.
- Ask your counselor for advice!

SENIOR CALENDAR CONTINUED...

March

- Watch for your Student Aid Report (SAR) in your portal/email. Seek it out. This form will provide you with your EFC (Expected Family Contribution) and with information about your eligibility for federal grants (free \$). Compare the financial aid awards you receive from each school before deciding.
- Let your counselor know when you receive any scholarship awards.
- Keep up your grades!
- Ask your counselor for advice!

April / May

- Make your decision about which college you will be attending and notify schools of your decision to accept or decline.
- Be sure to accept school specific scholarships in your online college portals.
- Complete all additional college academic, financial, and housing paperwork.
- Register for summer and/or fall classes, if this applies to you.
- Ask the Counseling Office to send your final High School transcript to the college you will be attending.
- Enjoy your remaining weeks in school and do well on your finals!
- Complete Senior Exit Survey sent to your school email.
- Attend the Senior Recognition Banquet. We need all scholarship notification by the end of April.
- Ask your counselor for advice!

