

Senior Deadlines

College Planning Timeline

June, July, August (before senior year begins)

- Have an appropriate email address (not partyboy@hotmail.com, sexkitty@gmail.com)
 - Colleges will communicate via email with you! Read email often!
- Create a consistent User Name and Password for ALL college apps
 - User Name: First initial, last name (dnoffze or djnoffze)
 - Password: lions2011, lions11
- Calendar: use one for all college deadlines/due dates
 - Note college application & scholarship deadlines
 - Mark Nov 1 as the deadline for filling out college applications this fall (even if they say the deadline is later! Get it done!!)
- Register for the ACT or SAT test in September or October
- Visit college campus (at least 2-3, maybe more)
 - Plan vacations that are near the college you want to visit, plan day trips for the colleges in state
 - Call ahead so they are sure to have someone to take you on a tour
 - Call Admissions office to set up date and time of official tour
- Begin filling out college applications (at least 2-3, up to 10)
 - Each application takes about 2 hours to fill out...remember this is the only impression the college has of you, so make it look great!
 - Most colleges waive the application fee if you fill them out early
 - College applications should be IN by November 1 of Senior Year
 - If the application for your fall semester is not available, FILL OUT THE ONE NEAREST YOUR ENTRANCE DATE. Then send an email telling the Admissions people that you are applying for the Fall of 2011 year, even though you filled out the Fall of 2010 or Spring of 2011 forms. (I have been directed by Admissions Reps that this is the way to proceed if you want to fill out college applications early.)
- Keep copies of everything you send via internet (for your records)
- Write a rough draft for your college essay, then have a teacher or counselor review it. Then write your final draft.
- Document volunteer work
 - Letters from the places you volunteered that explain the name of the place, what you did, when and where you did it, and what they observed about your volunteer work
 - Keep a running log on your computer; include who, what, when, where, activity

September & October

- Attend College Fairs
- Meet with the counselor to discuss future/college plans
- Register for Oct. ACT or SAT early in September
- Request transcripts be sent to the colleges where you have applied

- Transcript request forms are available in the guidance office as well on the counter by Mrs. Radic in the main office
 - Full name of college
 - Complete Address, city, state, zip code
- Apply for scholarships at the colleges as well as others
 - www.zinch.com, www.schoolsoup.com, www.fastweb.com
 - You or your parent's work place, insurance companies, etc.

October – ACT test date (see www.act.org for more info)
 -SAT test date (see www.collegeboard.org)

- Schedule college visits to those you've sent applications
 - Attend college view days/preview days that are hosted at the college
 - Over fall break the first week in October
 - Near Thanksgiving or Christmas break
 - Spring break

November 1

- College applications should have been submitted by this time
- Even if a college has “rolling enrollment”, please get your application in by this deadline
- Applications completed by this time often qualifies you for \$500-2000 scholarship for early admission
- Having college applications in by this time usually eliminates the need to pay the application fees which can save you anywhere from \$25 - \$125
- Do not be part of the 1000-5000 applicant pool that arrives November 15-December 15!

December 3

- Last day to request transcripts being sent to colleges until the new year

December – ACT test date (see www.act.org for more info)
 -SAT test date (see www.collegeboard.org)

January 1-31

- Fill out FAFSA form on line as soon as possible. Colleges cannot proceed with your financial aid packet until the FAFSA has been turned in. **Do NOT wait until April 15 to do taxes this year!!!!!!**
- Continue to fill out Financial Aid information for the college

January 15

- College transcript requests will be sent again beginning this date
- SAT test date (see www.collegeboard.org)

February - ACT test date (see www.act.org for more info)

- It is not recommended that you take the ACT test after this date (check with your college if they will accept a score after this date)

January – March

- Check DEADLINES for colleges
 - Missed deadlines means missed opportunities & missed money
- Begin to receive acceptance letters from college
- If you applied in September/October or earlier, you will hear sooner
- Let colleges know of your acceptance to their offer to have you at their college
- Fill out housing forms (for those living away from home)
- Continue to fill out Financial Aid information for the colleges

March 1 or 15 – Check College Deadlines for Financial Aid applications!!

March 31 – Most college Financial Aid is depleted by this date.

Some monies may be left, but not any significant amounts.

Financial Aid packets should have been filled out in January and February.

April 1

- Inform colleges you will not be attending that you are no longer interested and have made another choice
- Let them know via an email to your admissions counselor at that college, a phone call, or by returning the postcard some colleges send you
- They will not be offended; they just need to know so they can give your spot to another potential student
- Finalize any details with the college
 - Find out more about housing
 - When is Freshmen Orientation?
 - When do I sign up for classes? How do I do this?

May

- This should be a relaxing month from the college planning process
- Prepare for finals to end with the best grades possible
- Request a Final Transcript to be sent to your college
(all colleges require a final transcript upon graduation)
- Enjoy the last of Senior year in high school!
- Enjoy graduation and the celebrations (be safe!)
- Thank you notes to anyone who has had a specific impact on you in the last four years (and for graduation gifts too!)
- Plan when you will attend the freshmen orientation program at the college you will be attending in the fall

June, July, August (after senior year)

- Attend Freshmen Orientation at your college
- Find out what is included in the college dorms
- Find out what you can and cannot take to college
- Visit thrift stores or learn the art of garage sale shopping (ask for a bargain: bid low, they'll bid high, the deal will be somewhere in the middle. You save money!)
- Check out websites for less expensive college books (half.com, etc.)
 - Ask veteran college students about places to purchase books.
 - Share books with a friend or buy them from another student who had the same class last year.
- Enjoy the new adventure that college life will bring!!