

PREP FOR COLLEGE: SENIOR YEAR

FALL

This semester is all about APPLYING to colleges and for scholarships! Make sure you are using your college information files and portfolio to stay organized. Avoid senioritis and take a full college prep course load.

ADMISSIONS

- Request application materials from the schools that interest you and fit your needs (including the “dream” schools AND back-ups!)
Use a calendar! Mark all dates for admissions, scholarship and financial aid deadlines.
- Carefully read application requirements. Create checklists to organize all application materials.
- Make sure to request these TWO WEEKS in advance: personal references, transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, and essay draft edits.
- Write thank you letters to each person who provides a recommendation for you.
- Complete and send applications to your chosen colleges. Keep copies of EVERYTHING in your personal file.
- Check with your counselor about possible application fee waivers.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Search online, in your community, library, your counselor, and your chosen colleges!
- People writing you recommendation letters need TWO WEEKS advance notice.
 - Provide them with info about the scholarship, deadline, & submission instructions.
 - Provide them with a self-addressed stamped envelope to send their letter.
 - Write thank you letters to each person who provided a recommendation.
- Put effort and time into your essays. Proofread, get feedback from teachers, and edit!
- Beware of scams– you should never have to pay to find or apply for financial aid and scholarships!

SPRING

Spring is your time to prepare for college— to apply and accept financial aid, and make the big decisions about where to go to school! Stay on track with classes and finish strong. **You're almost there!**

FINANCIAL AID

- Prepare your taxes as early as possible to prepare for the FAFSA.
- Complete the online FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) - March 1 is the priority deadline! If you need help:
 - Attend College Goal Sunday, visit collegegoal.org for more info
 - Contact the financial aid office of any local college or university.
 - Ask your school counselor or favorite teacher for help
 - Call KS MEP!
- Carefully read and respond to ALL correspondence- from FAFSA, colleges, and scholarship sources.

DECISIONS

- Watch your mail AND email for acceptance letters and financial aid awards.
- Compare acceptance letters and financial aid packages from all the schools you were accepted to.
- Always accept sources of money you don't have to pay back first (like scholarships and grants)
- Understand your loan options before accepting them.
- Consider accepting work-study if you want to work part time in college.
- Once you decide which college to attend:
 - Mail in your acceptance form and deposit check ASAP!
 - Notify all other colleges of your decision.
- Complete all follow-up paperwork for your chosen college including housing arrangements and deposits, orientation and enrollment.
- CONGRATULATIONS! You're on your way to college!**



Call us for help
and to let us know
you've decided on
a college! We're
proud of you!