Senior Planning Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Attend Williamson County College Fair at Cool Springs Galleria!

Decide your list of college choices and observe the deadlines! Include at least one “long shot”, one “target”, and one “safe” school. Your first choice might very well be a school to which you are a likely candidate for admission; however, you should include at least one safe choice on your list of colleges. A great website for college information can be found at: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/

Review your applications and essays.

Register for the October ACT if you have not taken the test or want to retest. You can register online at http://www.actstudent.org

Complete a Senior Data Form or resume before you ask your counselor or teacher to write a recommendation. Be sure to make a copy for yourself and each teacher/counselor you ask to write a recommendation.

Notify your school counselor if you plan to apply Early Decision or Early Action. Early decision allows you to apply early, usually in November, and get an admission decision from the college in advance of the usual notification date. Early decision plans are "binding," meaning if you apply as an early decision candidate you agree to attend the college if it accepts you and offers an adequate financial aid package. Although you can apply to only one college for early decision, you may apply to other colleges under regular admission.

Early Action plans are similar to early decision plans in that you can learn early in the admission cycle (usually in January or February) whether a college has accepted you. But unlike early decision, most early action plans are not binding, meaning you do NOT have to commit to a college to which you've applied for early action. Under these plans, you may apply to other colleges. Usually, you can
let the college know of your decision in the late spring or whenever you've decided.

Begin work on application essays. All senior English classes include work on an essay. Make sure you follow the directions provided by the college/university and present yourself in a well thought out, honest, neat, and grammatically correct manner.

Remember that the grades you make this semester will be an important ingredient in the way college admissions committees view your academic seriousness. Your first semester grades will be the last ones they see before deciding whether to admit you to their school.

Decide how you will actually apply: paper application or online.

Take a chance with more challenging courses, if you can handle it. Colleges base part of their decision on the rigor of your course selections. Moreover, honors and AP courses will assist you in a successful transition to meeting collegiate expectations.

Check the spelling of your name to be printed on your diploma on the counseling center office windows.

**OCTOBER**

Plan to submit your college applications early! Early applications receive more attention because they demonstrate the student’s initiative and interest in a college.

Early decision deadlines and scholarship deadlines can be as early as October 15.

Plan ahead! Submit your Transcript Requests two weeks before the deadline.

Complete a Transcript Request form for each application you submit. Pick up the purple forms in the IHS Counseling Center. There is a $2.00 fee for transcripts.

Your transcript can include your ACT, grades and the school profile which explains the grading system. The college to which you are applying may require
the test scores come directly from ACT. Make sure you know what your college admissions require and contact ACT directly to request scores if you did not designate your choice as a recipient of your scores when registering for the test.

**NOVEMBER**

Use your college visiting days well. IHS allows a maximum of 2 days- which will be an excused absence if pre-approved. Bring a letter from the college for proof of your visit.

Teacher Recommendations - If the colleges to which you are applying require a recommendation from a teacher, choose and ask a teacher who you feel knows you the best and will represent you well. Allow at least 2 weeks to complete a recommendation. Provide an addressed and stamped envelope with the necessary college forms as well as a copy of your *senior data sheet* attached. If you are applying via the Common Application, you need to ask your teacher BEFORE you indicate them as a recommender on the online application.

This will be your last chance to sign up for and take the ACT in this year’s admission pool.

**DECEMBER**

All college applications and transcript requests which need to be sent out before the holidays are due in Guidance by the **first week in December**.

Any Transcript Requests submitted after this date may be sent out in January. Please remember that Counselor Reports will be processed in the order they are received...not in the order of urgency for you.

Request Mid-Year transcripts to be mailed to the colleges to which you are applying.

**JANUARY**

Complete and file your FAFSA as soon as possible. The FAFSA is the federal financial form, needed for both public and private schools, and the Profile is for private schools only. Remember, the lottery scholarships require the FAFSA!
Some aid is distributed on a first come, first served basis. FAFSA’s web site is http://www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Attend the IHS Financial Aid night!!

**FEBRUARY**

If you haven’t already done so, visit schools to which you have applied.

**MARCH**

Continue to focus on schoolwork – and try to be patient.

**APRIL**

By April 15th you should hear from all colleges. Use the two-weeks before May 1 to make your final decision.

Register for Advanced Placement exams if necessary.

Notify colleges that have accepted you of your final decision.

Notify colleges who have put you on their waiting list, if you wish to remain on the list.

*Don’t catch Senioritis!* All college acceptances are conditional pending receipt of final grades in June.

**MAY**

Reply to the college you choose. Do not place a deposit with more than one college: it is unethical, and you can be dropped by both, if this is discovered.

Fill out a *Final Transcript Request/Scholarship Form* for the college you will attend. You must make this request in writing to release your transcript.

GRADUATE!

Congratulations!!!