

College Countdown Calendar for Seniors

August/September

- For each college in which you plan to apply: VISIT THEIR WEBSITE! Then make an individual file for each college that includes special requirements, application deadlines, financial aid information, etc.
- Check priority deadlines for admission (some are as early as October).
- Create a master calendar that includes testing dates, application deadlines, and other important senior activities and events.
- Update your résumé to help you in completing applications and those writing recommendations for you.
- Register for or retake the SAT, ACT, and SAT II, as necessary. Most college applications require test scores. Take them early in fall in case you need to retake them. Make sure our high school code (100830) is on the application. If you are an athlete, make sure to send scores to NCAA (9999) clearinghouse.
- Check with the KHS website for the fall visiting schedule of college reps and the date for the fall college fair. Attend the local College Fair Night.
- Ask appropriate teachers if they would write recommendations for you (don't forget to write a thank you letter). Always allow a minimum of a two week notice.
- Review your Bright Futures status on www.floridashines.org.
- Look for scholarships online at www.fastweb.com and the monthly scholarship bulletins sent out by Ms. Javon Smith.

October/November/December

- Don't be late! Keep track of all deadlines for transcripts, recommendations, etc!!!!
- Prepare and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon as possible after October 1st.
- Attend Financial Aid meetings on 10/11 at Dream Center (635 W 5th St), 10/27 NCAA Workshop at KHS, and 11/29 FAFSA workshop with Polk State College at KHS.
- Be sure that you request from act.org or collegeboard.com that your ACT and SAT scores be sent to your colleges of choice. Retake tests as necessary.
- When essays are optional, always submit one. Write first drafts and ask teachers to read them. Proofread rigorously for mistakes.
- Complete and submit all applications. Watch deadlines!
- Request transcripts in the Guidance Office with Mrs. McLeish.
- If a Secondary School Report is required on your college application, bring your counselor the necessary forms at least two weeks prior to the college deadlines. Provide a copy of your résumé and self-assessment (available in the Guidance Office) when requesting a recommendation.
- Starting October 1st, apply for the Bright Future Scholarship Program and all other Florida financial aid programs online at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org. Keep your PIN so you can continue to check your status on their website.

January/February

- The sooner you apply for financial aid, the better your chances.
- File income tax returns early. Some colleges and FAFSA need copies of your family's returns before finalizing financial aid offers.
- Continue searching for scholarships. Check with your prospective colleges about additional financial aid.
- Be sure your midyear report is sent to the colleges to which you've applied (if necessary).
- Report any scholarships received to the Guidance Office.
- AVOID SENIORITIS!

April

- Review college acceptances and compare the financial aid offers you receive. Note all reply deadlines.
- Notify your college of choice that you accept its offer and send a deposit before deadline (usually May 1).
- Send your deposit to one college only. Notify all other colleges of your choice to decline their offers.
- Watch for important deadlines at your chosen college (housing, orientation, etc) and details of financial aid offers.
- Wait listed? If you will enroll if accepted, tell the admissions director of your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask whether funds will be available if you're accepted.

May/June

- Take AP tests.
- Complete exit form to have final transcripts sent to your chosen college. Be prepared to report all scholarship money received.
- Request final transcripts be sent to NCAA if applicable.
- Send thank-you notes to scholarship programs that have given you aid.
- Graduate! Congratulations and best of luck!