SENIOR YEAR GOALS TIMELINE

Welcome to Senior Year! It will go fast and at times, will be stressful. Remember how hard you have worked to get to this point, and think about all the exciting and new experiences waiting for you as you begin your journey after Graduation. Planning your next steps is commonly described as stressful, scary, or intimidating. Our goal is to make it more fun and exciting as it should be! With that goal in mind, the below timeline is a great guide to moving through Senior year effectively and achieving the most success with reaching your goals for life after graduation.

Using the Fall months to the fullest is important, and just helps to make Senior Year more enjoyable as a whole by getting a large amount of Senior-year tasks completed early so that later in the year its just about being a Senior, getting ready for graduation, and collecting as much scholarship money as possible.

The counseling website is a great resource for Announcements, Scholarships, Careers, and everything related to College (Applications, CommonApp, Explorations, Visits, etc.) Go to the following address or use the QR code:

https://newbremencounseling.weebly.com/

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

* Start developing a preliminary career plan or list of interests so that after-graduation planning can focus on working towards these developed goals (and yes, it is totally okay to change your mind or be undecided!!)
* Make a list of your top colleges and/or careers. Research, Research, Research!! Get online, take virtual tours, talk to college reps or individuals you may know who went places you are interested in, request admissions materials be sent to you, etc. The biggest source of anxiety in anything is uncertainty; gathering information helps to reduce uncertainty! Job shadowing is also highly recommended to actually see inside what possible career interests look like in day-to-day life. The goal is to develop a college list of 3-5 colleges you are most interested in that meet your needs, and/or the same number of possible workplaces or training programs if your goals do not include heading to college after graduation.
* College Visits!! Really going out and seeing the colleges and the surrounding communities is important! Go on as many visits as possible. Most colleges are allowing tours with scheduled appointments. If you are wanting to attend open houses or visits, it is best to schedule way ahead; some colleges can get to be 1-2 months out for finding openings to schedule visits. Remember the place selected may be home for several years; you will know when it feels right. Open house listings will be posted on the website and around the building for many of the Ohio colleges for in the Fall. These are great opportunities to check out the colleges and programs.
* Decide if you are planning on taking the ACT again and get registered.
* Get Organized! Make a calendar that you can mark up with registration, admissions, and financial deadlines and fees. Also, add in short-term goals for when you will have tasks completed by such as applications, essays, requests, etc. Also make a physical file and a digital file so that you can keep all materials together and easy to find (letters, essays, admissions materials, etc.)
* Request letters of recommendation. Ask Teachers, Counselors, Principals, Coaches, Employers, etc. Collecting 3-5 is best practice. When requesting, it is good to have both paper copies and to ask these individuals for their email so that CommonApp can contact them directly. Complete an information sheet (can be found on website or in the office) to give individuals who will be writing letters for you.
* If selected colleges require essays, start drafting out your response. Please use your resources and have several individuals read over drafts to help refine your essays.
* Update your resume, or create one if you don’t already have one started.
* Start a list of Activities, Community Involvement, Work Experience and Awards/Honors that you have for your High School years. This information is very useful for applications, recommendation requests and scholarship applications.
* Build your CommonApp and/or complete early applications for colleges that don’t use CommonApp.
* If you are thinking about applying for a special program (PTA, some nursing, Dental Hygiene, engineering, honors programs, etc.) check into the application process for the program you are interested in. Many times, these programs have extra requirements and deadlines.
* Start checking the scholarship postings (on counseling website or in hallway outside Mr. William’s room) regularly. Start checking specific college scholarship/financial aid pages as well.
* You and your parents will both need an FSA ID setup to make the FAFSA application process easy. This will be discussed later in September and at FAFSA Night. FAFSA applications for the 2024-2025 school year will go live sometime in December; applying as early as possible is best practice.
* Have fun, go to ball games, enjoy the fall weather, start planning out the best Halloween costume, and please keep grades up so that GPA stays as high as possible (GPA makes money for you!).

OCTOBER

* If you have not already done so, sign up (and your parents) for an FSA ID. The FAFSA application will not go live until sometime in December this year due to the application being totally new and updated.
* Continue developing your application essays if not already completed.
* All essays, letters of recommendation, early applications, portfolios and other admissions materials should be completed this month if not already.
* Continue visiting schools and/or job shadowing. Refine school and career lists/applications as needed.
* November 1st is the Early Action or Early Application deadline for many colleges in Ohio. This is a good first date to mark as when to have college applications completed by especially to be eligible for the most merit scholarship money offered.
* Continue watching for and completing Scholarship Applications.
* Any colleges you are interested in or that you have applied to, make sure to check the scholarships specific to those colleges that you may be eligible for or that have special applications (Direct links to most colleges in Ohio and surrounding states can be found on the counseling website).
* If you are planning on playing College Sports, please check your NCAA status or sign up on the NCAA Clearing house.

**NOVEMBER**

* Complete any college applications not already submitted.
* Apply for Scholarships!!
* Request Financial Aid forms, applications, and check out school-specific scholarships for colleges accepted to.
* Eat way too much food at Thanksgiving!

**DECEMBER**

* FAFSA Night will be December 4th at 7:00 PM. FAFSA is very different this year due to the application being new. No official date has been set for when the application will go live.
* Once FAFSA application is completed, watch for an email notice indicating that your Student Aid Report (SAR Report) is ready.
* Review your SAR Report for errors and make any corrections or changes needed.
* Finalize any admissions applications that are new or that you have not already submitted.
* Start watching for Early Admissions notices if you applied early.
* Research all the deadlines and tasks for the colleges you applied to, or for where you are accepted, to add things to your calendar. You should be watching for housing applications, financial aid applications, scholarships and grants.
* Scholarships, Scholarships, Scholarships!!
* Enjoy the Holidays and recharge for the second half of the year!

**JANUARY**

* Keep applying for Scholarships
* If you never received your FAFSA SAR Report after submitting your application, please call 1-800-4-FED-AID. If you did receive it and have not already done so, please check for errors and changes needed.
* Continue watching for admissions decisions, and for any communication from your colleges, especially in regards to deadlines and tasks to complete.
* Do not let Senioritis catch you; it is important to finish the year strong!

**FEBRUARY**

* Keep watching for any deadlines or communication from the colleges.
* Apply for Scholarships.
* New Bremen Community Scholarships application will go live this month and need to be completed. Materials from the Fall will be very useful during this process (letters of recommendation, FAFSA SAR report, activity reports, etc.)

**SPRINGTIME**

* New Bremen Community Scholarship interviews will take place during the month of March.
* Rank your top choices if accepted to multiple places. Go on more visits to help make decisions.
* Continue applying for any other scholarships available.
* Future College Athletes: request Amateurism certificate starting April 1st.
* Continue watching for college correspondence (acceptance letters, tasks to complete, financial aid information, etc.)
* Compare costs of institutions and your financial aid award letters.
* Notify the school you are planning to attend of your acceptance by May 1st; this is the universal date to accept if you have not done so earlier. Notify any other schools if you will not be attending so that they can open up spots for other students.
* Send CCP College Transcripts and Official test scores (ACT,AP) to your college as needed. Students will need to login to their MyACT or Collegeboard accounts for ACT and AP scores to be sent. If CCP classes were completed at Edison, they will need to login to their MyESCC account and complete a transcript request. If CCP was completed at a different college, they should contact the college for sending transcripts needed. With CCP transcripts, you may want to wait to send until end of spring semester to get last grades included.
* Mark important dates and deadlines for things like registration, orientation, and housing.
* Submit Community Scholarship materials for scholarships awarded (this process may go through the summer depending on when required materials are obtained from colleges).
* Complete your final Senior Questionnaire for Mr. Lauterbach and needed Graduation materials including your baby/senior pictures for slideshow.
* Start looking for summer jobs.

GRADUATION!

May 19th 2024

