

# **PREPARING FOR COLLEGE: SENIOR YEAR CHECKLIST**

## **AUGUST-SEPTEMBER**

- Register for the ACT if you didn't take a college entrance exam as a junior or want to take one again. Remember: Mr. Burkee can help with fee waivers.
- Continue to look at college applications. Make note of all the pieces of information you will need to compile.
- Check with Mr. Burkee to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements.
- Take every opportunity to get to know colleges. Meet with college representatives who visit your school, attend local college fairs, and visit campuses.
- Narrow down your list of colleges. Collect information about the application and financial aid process at each school.
- Create a checklist and calendar to keep track of standardized test dates, college application due dates, and financial aid deadlines. Make note of the other materials, such as recommendations or essays, you'll need to complete your applications.
- Attend all 4 of Mr. Burkee's Senior Seminar presentations.

## **OCTOBER**

- File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon after Oct. 1 as possible. In addition to determining your eligibility for federal funds, many colleges and states use the form when distributing grants, so don't delay. Watch the mail for your Student Aid Report (SAR)—it should arrive four weeks after the FAFSA is filed.
- Some colleges will have deadlines (rolling, priority, early decision, and early action) as early as this month.
- Finalize your college essays. Many schools will require that you submit at least one essay with your application.
- Request personal recommendations from teachers, school counselors, or employers.
- Research scholarships. Ask Mr. Burkee, your colleges, and local religious and civic groups about scholarship opportunities. You should never pay for scholarship information.

## **NOVEMBER-DECEMBER**

- Finalize and send any early decision or early action applications due this month. Have a parent, teacher, counselor, or other adult review the application before it is submitted.
- Every college will require a copy of your transcript from your high school. Follow Martin Luther High School's procedure for sending transcripts.
- Make sure testing companies have sent your scores directly to the colleges to which you are applying.
- Begin to organize regular decision applications and financial aid forms, which will be due in January and/or February.
- If needed, register for the late fall ACT. It is the last one colleges will be able to consider for a senior.
- Many popular and selective colleges will have application deadlines as early as Jan. 1. Others have deadlines later in January and February.
- If necessary, register for the February ACT (some colleges will be able consider it).
- In January, ask Mr. Burkee to send first semester transcripts to schools where you applied. At the end of the school year, he will need to send final transcripts to the college you will attend.

## **FEBRUARY-MAY**

- Acceptance letters and financial aid offers will start to arrive. Review your acceptances, compare financial aid packages, and visit your final choices.
- Don't slack in the classroom. The college you decide to attend will want to see your second semester transcript.
- May 1 is the date when the college you plan to attend requires a commitment and deposit. When you've made your college decision, notify Mr. Burkee. Send in your deposit by the postmark date of May 1. If you've been offered financial aid, accept the offer and follow the instructions given. Also notify schools you will not attend of your decision.
- Request that your final transcript be sent to the college you will be attending.
- If you are wait-listed by a college you really want to attend, visit, call, and write the admission office to make your interest clear. Ask how you can strengthen your application.