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# SENIOR FAMILIES CHECKLIST AND IMPORTANT DATES

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## 1. FALL AND WINTER

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- Create a calendar with your child that includes application deadlines and other important dates.
- Work together to create a list of activities and service that your child has participated in; this list will help when completing college applications, asking recommenders for letters of recommendation, and completing scholarship applications.
- Visit college campuses your child is interested in; the best way to make an informed decision is to visit campus and to talk to individuals at the colleges.
- Create a parchment account with your child so he/she can send transcripts to prospective colleges. You can do this by visiting [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com).
- Create FSA IDs (both parents and child) so the FAFSA can be electronically signed (requirement). You can create your FSA ID by visiting [www.fsaaid.ed.gov/npas/index.html](http://www.fsaaid.ed.gov/npas/index.html).
- Help your child find and apply for scholarships; be sure to check the post secondary planning page on Monroe High School's website for scholarship opportunities: <http://monroepublic.cyberschool.com/MHS/Department/34-Post-Secondary-Planners>. Additionally, be sure to fill out the scholarship application with Monroe County Community Foundation, which awards community and private scholarships. You can find the application at [www.cfmonroe.org/scholarships-2](http://www.cfmonroe.org/scholarships-2). The application opens on December 1<sup>st</sup> and the deadline to apply is February 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Offer to look over your child's college applications; just remember this is your child's work so remain in the role of advisor and proofreader and allow him/her to maintain his/her own voice.
- Fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible; the FAFSA application opened on October 1<sup>st</sup>, and the earlier you apply, the more funds are available. The FAFSA is required to receive federal and state financial aid as well as some scholarships. You can fill out the FAFSA at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). You can view a step-by-step guide to completing the FAFSA on the post secondary planning page on MHS's website.
- Work together to apply for financial aid: Have your child contact the Financial Aid offices at the colleges in which he/she is interested to determine what aid they have available for students and how to apply for institutional funding. Also, learn from the financial aid offices college loan options and how students, and potentially parents, can obtain student loans.
- Encourage your child to take SAT subject tests and AP Exams; These tests can showcase your child's interests and achievements, and many colleges require or recommend that applicants take one or more subject tests. Additionally, if your child has taken AP or other advanced classes, have him/her talk with teachers now about taking these tests in May.

## 2. SPRING

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- Help your child process college responses; once your child starts hearing back from colleges about admission and financial aid, he or she will need your support to decide what to do, where to attend, etc.
- Review financial aid offers together; your child will need help reading through financial aid award letters and determining which package works best for him/her. Be sure your child pays attention to and meets any deadlines for acceptance.
- Help your child complete the paperwork to accept a college's offer of admittance; once your child has decided which college to attend, he or she will need to review the offer, accept that college's offer, mail a tuition deposit, and submit other required paperwork. Help your child to create a checklist of all that needs to be accomplished to get ready for attending a particular college.

- Continue to search and apply for scholarship funding!
- Get ready for Decision Day and senior festivities and activities!

### **3. IMPORTANT SENIOR DATES**

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- December 6: Jostens senior meeting in the auditorium during TFT to discuss ordering graduation announcements and cap and gowns
  - December 13 & 14: Jostens available in lunch room during lunch hours to collect order forms and down payments.
  - May 2: Senior Decision Day and Career and College Readiness Fair
  - May 31: Last day of school for seniors
  - June 1: Senior breakfast and graduation rehearsal at 8am
  - June 1: Baccalaureate program at 7pm in the auditorium at MHS
  - June 2: Graduation at 6:30pm at MHS
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