

Senior Year Timeline

***Please note: The Common App opens on August 1st. Information can be found at <https://www.commonapp.org/>**

FALL:

Meet with your counselor: In the first few weeks of school, you will meet with your counselor to discuss your intended majors and schools. The two of you will map out a timeline of when you should be applying to your schools. Discussing which deadlines; early-action, early-decision, or regular, you should consider. You will also discuss the different admission materials you will need for each school along with financial aid.

- **Parent College Night:** Thursday, September 10th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the library, the Counseling Department will be hosting a senior parent college night to get information on different schools and the college application process.

- **Parent/counselor meetings:** Thursday, September 17th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. the School Counselors will be available for individual appointments for parents to ask questions about the college application process.

- **Send test scores:** All schools will require that the students send their official score reports when applying.

- **Tell counselors when you apply:** Students are required to meet with their counselor to request transcripts once they have applied. Elyria Catholic requires a \$3 one time fee for transcripts being sent via Naviance

- **Start your essays and get your letters of recommendation:** Start writing your essays as they may take time. Ask your teachers/counselors for letters of recommendation. Please give your teachers/counselors at least 2 weeks to write a letter of recommendation. Do not forget to write a thank you note!

- **Take the ACT/SAT:** Take the ACT or SAT if you have not done so or if you were not satisfied with your scores.

- **Work on applications:** We recommend that you apply to at least one school by Halloween. Remember to check deadlines!

- **Follow up on applications:** Make sure your schools have all your admission materials.

- **Continue to visit colleges:** You have an additional 2 excused absences for visiting colleges your senior year.

- **Continue to look at financial aid:** Check the school newsletter for updates on national and local scholarship opportunities. Be aware of deadlines!

- **Parent financial aid night:** Thursday, September 24th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the library, the Counseling Department will be hosting a financial aid night for parents to learn more information on the financial aid process.

WINTER:

- Continue applying to schools and following up on applications
- **FAFSA:** Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is the federal website you will fill out to determine what federal scholarships, grants, and loans you are eligible for based on your family income. The FAFSA opens October 1st. Once it is open, you can create a profile and upload your tax information. We recommend that you apply ASAP as grant and scholarship money are on a first-come, first-served basis. You can estimate your income off your parents' taxes from last year. However, once this year's taxes are complete you will need to go in and update the information. We strongly encourage every family to complete the FAFSA regardless of your financial situation. The FAFSA can be found at <http://fafsa.gov>
- **Send mid-year grade reports:** Some schools may require you to send your mid-year grade report. Let your counselor know the deadline for when they are due.

SPRING:

- **Financial Aid Packages:** By March/April, you should have received a financial aid package from each of the schools that you applied to. It is now time to compare all the schools and make a decision.
- **Make a decision:** May 1st is the date by which you must decide which school you will select.
- **Complete enrollment paperwork:** Once you accept an offer, you should receive information from the college about course scheduling, orientation sessions, housing arrangements, and other necessary forms. Be sure to complete all required paperwork by their deadlines.
 - **Housing:** If you plan on living on campus, pay attention to the dates that you need to submit your housing payments by.
- **Send final transcript:** Let your counselors know what your final decision is as they will need to send your final transcript.

Congratulations! You have finished high school and are about to embark on an exciting adventure. Good Luck!