

Fredericktown High School

Senior Year General Guideline "To Do" List

Fall

- **Have a plan...What are your plans after high school?** May will be here before you know it. Are you interested in going to college (two year or four year), military, work, adult program at the KCCC, trade school, etc.? There is no right answer but you need a plan! Do what is best for you!
- Think about costs of schools after high school. Think about potential debt and how will you handle this. What schooling does the career you want to do require? Think this through to plan what's best for you. If you need help or want to discuss this, see Mrs. Jurkowitz.
- You should have a challenging senior year schedule. Senior year is not the time to take a break, as colleges and schools will look very closely at your transcript to see which courses you are taking. Keep up your grades!
- If college is your plan, work on developing a solid list of 3-5 schools where you are interested in applying, including some dream schools and at least one safety school. Having 3-5 schools is just a guideline, your situation may be different. Please consult with Mrs. Jurkowitz if needed.
- **Make a list of community service, activities, extracurriculars, and athletics you have been involved in during high school.** This will serve you well when you are applying to college and scholarships later in the year. You will reuse this list again and again.
- You will meet with Mrs. Jurkowitz at least once in the fall to double check your courses and credits pertaining to graduation and to go over your plans for after graduation. If you are pursuing college, you should have at least one safety school chosen and perhaps even a few. Confirm the timeline for completing college applications, for obtaining teacher recommendations, and for completing college essays – each college is slightly different in their expectations so pay attention.
- Register for and take SAT/ACT again if applicable. Use October/November/December test dates to schedule any remaining standardized exams you need to take. There is a lot of scholarship money tied to a higher ACT score!
- Work with your English teacher and/or Mrs. Jurkowitz on your college essay. Be sure you have several people look over your essay for content, style, and grammar. Your essay must be completed before you can apply to colleges. Be aware that colleges read essays very carefully, and this is your opportunity to stand out in a positive way.
- Begin completing college applications online. Check to see which colleges accept the Common Application by going to www.commonapp.org or applying directly to the colleges you wish to apply. Be sure to complete applications carefully, correctly, and thoroughly. Put the finishing touches on your essay. You will also need your list of activities in order to complete your applications.

- Check with teachers who are writing your recommendations and notify them of when you intend to send out your applications; give at least two weeks for teachers to write a recommendation letter. Fill out the “Brag Sheet” so it makes it easier for teachers and/or Mrs. Jurkowitz to write a relevant letter.
- Send in applications **at least** 2 weeks prior to a college's stated deadline. Do not wait until the last minute! Be sure the entire application is thoroughly completed before you click send. **Notify Mrs. Jurkowitz if you need transcripts or anything else sent on your behalf.**
- **Complete the FAFSA.** The Free Application for Student Aid, which becomes available in October. You must complete the FAFSA with your parent(s)/guardian(s) online, which is found at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This is the primary document colleges will use to calculate your financial aid package if you are accepted. The FAFSA should be completed by everyone that will be looking for financial aid and should be completed and submitted no later than December 31.
- We will have a financial aid night event with a local college on **October 23 in the HS library from 6-7.** They will explain and walk through this process. **This is a very informative evening, so plan to attend and take notes.**
- **Begin search for private scholarships.** The best online source for private scholarships is www.fastweb.com.
- If you applied early, look for decision letters to be sent to you by Dec. 15.
- Make any last minute college visits if practical.
- Some colleges may require your ACT/SAT score be sent directly to them from ACT/SAT. You can request your scores be sent at www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org. Keep in mind not every college requires SAT/ACT scores, some are test optional. For a complete list of these colleges, go to www.fairtest.org.
- Almost all male U.S. citizens and male immigrants, who are 18 through 25, are required to register with Selective Service. Visit www.sss.gov to register and more information.

Winter

- Be sure the colleges to which you applied have received everything both from you and the high school. Keep an eye out for any information schools may request and pay attention to their scholarship opportunities.
- **Local scholarships, including the Knox County Community Foundation Scholarships and Fredericktown Community Foundation Scholarships, start becoming available in January and February and are usually due all before the middle of April. PLEASE take advantage of these scholarship opportunities!** All local scholarships that are received by the counseling office will be posted on the guidance website at www.fredericktownschools.com and also posted in our office. It doesn't take long to fill out these applications and you could earn a lot of money! Local scholarships, as well as scholarships through the college you are planning to attend directly, are really the best way to go! **Any scholarships being submitted by the guidance office must be turned into our office a week**

before the deadline!

- If needed, request from the counseling office that your mid-year grades be sent to schools that are still considering your application. Often colleges will ask to see these grades as confirmation that you are still working hard in school, or if you are "on the fence" and they need further evidence that you are a good candidate for their school.
- Keep working hard in your classes.

Spring

- Check your mail for admission decisions and financial aid letters. If you receive several acceptances, you will want to use the time between your decision notification and the notification deadline (usually May 1) to do further research, including possible visits to colleges you have not seen yet.
- If you are waitlisted, notify the college or university if you are still interested, and ask them if there is anything you can do to improve your chances of being taken off the wait list.
- Have an honest discussion with your family about financial aid offers, comparing packages at different schools if necessary, and pros and cons of each school.
- Write thank you notes to any teachers or others that have written you recommendations for college and inform them of your college decision.
- Study for final exams! Remember the high school still has to send your final grades to colleges! Colleges have been known to revoke acceptances due to poor performance the last half of senior year, or possibly put you on probation for first semester. Do not let that happen to you!
- If you've taken a CCP course and want that credit sent to your freshman year college, you must request the transcript from the college you attended (COTC for all courses taken at FHS) and have it sent after you have completed the course. You can usually request this online or through the college's registrar's office.
- Graduate!

If you need a high school transcript sent anywhere, there are Transcript Request Forms in the guidance office directly outside Mrs. Jurkowitz's door. Please fill it out completely, including the mailing or email address (and the name of a person if applicable) where you want the transcript sent.

Need to contact Mrs. Jurkowitz? Stop in, call, or email anytime!

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