

Senior Year at Gwynn Park High School

Your commitment to your education will begin to pay off soon. But, don't celebrate prematurely. This year it is extremely important that you stay organized and meet all graduation and application requirements as well as FAFSA and scholarship deadlines. Review your efforts so far, make any necessary adjustments, and continue to make the best grades you can.

Specific things to do during the fall semester (August – December):

- In early September, register for the SAT or ACT, if needed.
- Meet with your school counselor to review and sign your senior contract. This agreement will document what you need to do to meet graduation requirements.
- Write essays that need to be included in your applications.
- Continue saving for college.
- Conduct **free** online scholarship searches (i.e. www.fastweb.com) and apply for scholarships. Speak with your school counselor about local and national scholarship opportunities.
- Ask teachers, coaches, and/or counselors if they can serve as a reference for employment or to write letters of recommendation. If letters of recommendation are needed, please give the person at least a three week notice and a copy of your resume.
- Attend college fairs, college planning and financial aid information sessions.
- Visit post secondary institutions that are a good match with your credentials and career interests.
- Check with the financial aid office of schools you are applying to for:
 - ✓ Specific information on scholarships and costs for tuition, fees, room and board.
 - ✓ Institutional or additional financial aid forms required.
- Double-check your transcript to make sure all the information is correct.
- If you are confident about your first choice college, apply for early admission/early action programs. Early admission acceptance letters are generally mailed to students before the end of December.
- Complete the 36 service hour requirement. Submit a completed copy of the Community Service Form to Ms. Lyon (Room 116) **before** Winter Break. Make sure you keep a copy of this form as well.

Adapted from:

Xap Corporation (2000-2006). Retrieved July 15, 2006 from, College Foundation of North Carolina website:
http://www.ncmentor.org/Planning/Timeline/prepare_timeline_12th.html

Specific things to do during the spring semester (January – June):

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) between January 1 and March 1. You can register online at www.fasfa.ed.gov. The Guidance Office will have hard copies of the FAFSA as well. Remember, your family's tax information for the previous year is needed in order to complete the form. About four weeks after submitting the FAFSA, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) that will determine your eligibility for federal aid. Carefully check your SAR when it arrives to make sure that it is complete and accurate.
- If you haven't done so, be sure to take all required High School Assessments (HSA) in **January**. Make up exams are not scheduled again until May.
- Complete a Transcript Request Form to send your official high school transcript to schools where you are applying.
- If you have taken college level courses during high school (community college classes), have those transcripts sent to schools where you are applying also. Student athletes should contact the guidance secretary about sending their transcript to the NCAA Clearinghouse for eligibility certification.
- Acceptance letters usually arrives before April 15. Provide a copy of your acceptance letter to your school counselor.
- Compare acceptance letters for financial aid and scholarship offers.
- If you are planning to attend a community college, take the college placement test.
- If you are planning to enlist into the armed forces, arrange a meeting with a military recruiter, take the ASVAB, and get a physical examination.
- Take exams for any AP or college level courses you've completed. Decide which school you will attend by May and accept their invitation to become a student! In addition, let the other schools that offered you admission know you are not attending their institution.
- If you are placed on a waiting list and plan to wait for an opening, please inform the college that you are still interested in attending.
- Pay a nonrefundable deposit for freshman tuition, if required, to hold your space.

Specific things to do the summer after graduation:

- Complete another Transcript Request Form to send your **final** high school transcript to the school you will attend.
- Continue to explore careers by taking a summer job or internship in your field of interest.
- Attend a summer orientation program at your new college, if available.
- Meet with your college's academic advisor, if possible.
- Secure student health insurance, if needed.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!