

## SCHS RECOMMENDED COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE

### 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – FINAL STEPS!

#### August/September

- If you have not taken the SAT or ACT sign up ASAP!
- Remember grades still count. Colleges care about the courses you take and the grades you earn senior year.
- **PAY ATTENTION** at our Senior Orientation! In this very **IMPORTANT** class meeting we will review the process for requesting a transcript, applying to college, obtaining recommendations and other critical information.
- Senior Parent Night: This program will provide your parent or guardian with information about the post-secondary planning process during senior year.
- Sign up to attend college representative presentations in the Career Center during September & October (through Naviance Student on Blackboard).
- Identify the teacher(s) who are good candidates to write a recommendation letter for you, and ask them if they would be willing to do so. Give them plenty of notice before deadlines.
- Individual meetings with seniors to clarify post-secondary plans begin.
- Submit a FAFSA® (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online. All families with a senior planning to pursue higher education should file a FAFSA, regardless of income. Students will be able to file a FAFSA for the academic as early as October 1 of their senior year.
- Check the school calendar for details about the upcoming Financial Aid Night in the fall. This important program will provide more detailed information about types of financial aid and the application process. (Date TBD.)
- Early Action and Early Decision deadlines are coming up quickly. Check individual college application calendars to confirm dates. Remember school counselors and the transcript office require 15 business days to complete your recommendation and transcript package.

#### October

- Submit the “Request for Counselor Recommendation” form to your school counselor. Parents submit the Parent Info form as well.
- Individual post-secondary planning meetings with counselors continue.
- Check for scholarships in the database on Naviance. Research financial aid options and scholarships online and on college websites.
- Continue to complete your college applications.
- Attend the College Fair (Fair Oaks Mall) and College Night (Hayfield Secondary) programs mid-October.
- If you are considering Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), apply for the Pathway to Baccalaureate Program. This is a unique partnership with NVCC that supports students during the senior year and continues during their enrollment at NVCC. Talk with your school counselor about this.

### **November - December**

- Make sure you have submitted requests for all supplemental application information to be sent: official high school transcript, counselor and teacher recommendations, ACT and SAT test scores.
- Continue completing your college applications.
- Check Naviance to see if any new scholarships have been added to the database. Continue to do this throughout senior year. Check with the colleges to which you have applied to determine if they offer any university- based scholarships.

### **January – February**

- Continue to apply for scholarships as deadlines approach.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Semester Grades and an updated GPA are calculated by FCPS for all seniors. The SCHS transcript office will automatically send the 7<sup>th</sup> semester grades and updated GPA to all schools to which you have applied.

### **March – May**

- When you have received your admissions decision and financial aid package, be sure to visit potential colleges one more time to make a final decision.
- Notify schools of your intentions to attend or not attend. Send in any required forms or deposits to the school you have chosen to attend.
- All seniors will take the Senior Survey through Government classes.

### **June**

- GRADUATION! Hooray!!! You made it!

### **Summer**

- Attend college orientation and review orientation materials from the college you selected.
- Each college will have their own process and timeline for signing up for housing, roommate selection, class registration, payment, etc. so make sure you stay in contact with your school and keep up with all that info.
- Best of luck!