

SENIOR-YEAR TIMELINE

SEPTEMBER

GHS ACT/CEEB SCHOOL CODE: 362-240

- ✓ Make sure you are on track to graduate; check with counselor if you are unsure.
- ✓ Double-check you transcript.
- ✓ Make an appointment with your GHS school counselor.
- ✓ Register for October ACT if necessary—free test prep on-line through *Ohio Means Jobs*
- ✓ Attend college fairs and college representative visits at GHS.
- ✓ Arrange campus visits; you really need to visit a college if you plan to apply to it.
- ✓ Narrow your list of possible colleges.
- ✓ Begin locating the applications on line from the college websites or investigate the use of the Common Application at www.commonapp.org.
- ✓ Begin asking people for references and/or recommendations.
- ✓ If a college requires it, begin college admission essays/responses.
- ✓ *Early Decision* candidates need to complete the applications (deadline usually Nov.1 or 15)
- ✓ When you counselor comes to English class to provide senior guidance, hang on her every word.
- ✓ Watch deadlines carefully; they aren't really negotiable in this process.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

- ✓ Continue completing/sending applications; make sure you let you counselor know in writing that you need a transcript(s) sent. Forms available in Guidance Office. If the college application has an on-line method for doing this such as with the Common Application or SendEdu, this request is sufficient; you don't need to complete form from Guidance. Duplication not necessary!
- ✓ Register for December ACT if necessary; deadline is November 3; offered at GHS.
- ✓ Begin Financial Aid process by filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on line. Students used to begin this process after January 1. However, it is now October 1. **See separate packet of Financial Aid information that counselor will provide through English class.**
- ✓ Attend Financial Aid meeting and completion workshop on Saturday, November 4, 9:00 a.m., GHS Cafetorium.
- ✓ Complete any other financial aid forms you may need for a particular college and be aware of their deadlines for financial aid which vary from college to college. **See separate pink sheet counselor will provide through English class.**
- ✓ Begin watching your e-mail for Student Aid Report (SAR) and Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as a result of the FAFSA process.
- ✓ After you have this information, you will also be getting correspondence from the college Financial Aid offices. If they ask for additional information, make sure you provide it as quickly as possible.
- ✓ Consult the GHS Guidance website for state/national scholarship opportunities.
- ✓ Watch deadline carefully; they still aren't really negotiable in this process.
- ✓ Don't procrastinate!

*****By the time we leave for Christmas vacation, you should have completed the admission application process and the financial aid application process.**

JANUARY

- ✓ Continue weighing your options and comparing college award letters to determine which package best suits your needs. Begin securing additional funding if necessary.
- ✓ Begin investigating local scholarship opportunities by visiting the Guidance website—Local Scholarships—Pamphlet. This is a list of the many local scholarships available to Galion students between February and May. Peruse the list to see which ones may apply to you; then, you can watch for the applications to be posted on the Guidance website. Applications are usually posted 4-6 weeks before the deadline.
- ✓ The counselor will provide more instructions for local scholarships in early February through English class.

FEBRUARY-MAY

- ✓ Apply for local scholarships
- ✓ Check your U.S. Mail and your e-mail regularly. You will be receiving quite a bit of correspondence from your college; it is important and may contain time-sensitive information with deadlines. This correspondence will come to the student, not the parent.
- ✓ By April you should be making your final decision. Most schools want your reply by May 1.
- ✓ **Notify other colleges to which you have applied of your decision not to attend their school.**
- ✓ Look for a summer job to help earn money for college expenses.

JUNE

- ✓ Your college will be asking for a final transcript, and you must have one sent from the Guidance Office. You will be given a Senior Questionnaire in mid-May; you will make the request on this form. Final transcripts cannot be sent until after graduation and are usually mailed to the colleges during the second week of June.
- ✓ Send thank-you notes to people who have helped you get to where you are and to people who give you graduation gifts; good manners never go out of style!

OTHER NOTES...

- **CLEAN UP YOUR TECHNOLOGY NOW**
- **REFERENCES AND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**
 - ❖ Always ask someone first before you put his/her name down as a reference
 - ❖ Ask people in advance for letters of recommendation
 - Give them plenty of time.
 - If there is a form, make sure you provide it & fill out your part.
 - Attach an activity sheet to give the recommender information about you.
 - Make sure the recommender knows what to do with it—give it directly to your counselor who may be sending in a packet of info. about you; send it directly to the college, provide addressed, stamped envelope.
 - Don't expect the person to give it back to you.
- **NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org**
 - ❖ Must register if you have a chance of playing Div. I or II athletics in college.
 - ❖ May also want to meet with your guidance counselor before you do this.