

Class of 2024 College Newsletter - September 5, 2024



Hello Class of 2025!

Welcome to your Senior Year and the College Application Process. We know some of you have already started the college process and for others, the process may still feel like an ominous weight on your shoulders. As your School Counselors, we are here to support you. Remember, you are right where you need to be.

By now, you should all have your FHS College Packet and should have joined the Class of 2025 Google College Classroom. The college packet contains everything you need to know about the college planning process and

includes Senior Fall checklists for you and your parents. The college classroom contains many great resources, links, and worksheets to aid in the process. New to our school? Lost your packet? Click this link to access a new one: [FHS College Packet 2024](#) Still need to join the classroom? Join now using this code: [bd26waq](#)

We look forward to working with you this fall to support you through this process. Stay tuned for more details about scheduling one-on-one college meetings with your counselor. We are here for you!

Ms. Clark (A-G) Ms. Peirce (H-O) Ms. Anderson (P-Z)

Save the Date! Upcoming College Events

12th Grade Student Post-Grad & College Info Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 17
Location/Time: FPAC during Advisory

**12th Grade Parent
College Info Meeting**
Date: Tuesday, September 17
Location/Time: FPAC @ 6:00 PM

College Fair - Greely HS

Date: Thursday, September 19
Location: Greely High School Gym
Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



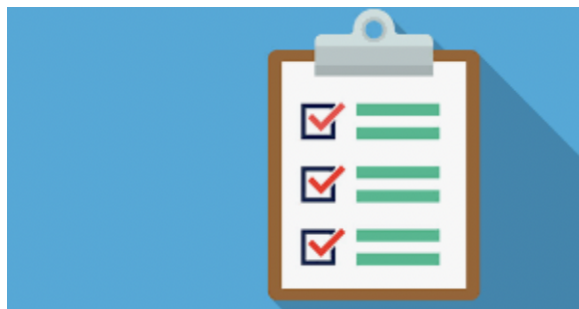
Suggested College Planning Tasks For September

Join the Class of 2025
College Google Classroom

Class Code: [bd26waq](#)

The Google Classroom contains all of the resources you need for the college application process.

Check Your To Do's



Your Junior College Packet has two important checklists to help you keep track of your to do's this fall. If you want to print a separate lists, click on the links below or you can also find links in the google classroom:

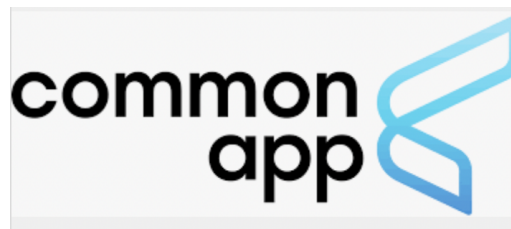
[College Checklist - Class of 2025](#)

[College Parent Checklist](#)

Finalize your College List & Get Organized with a College Tracker

Now is the time to finalize a balanced list of schools. You should be sure to have at least one safety and/or one financial safety school on your list. Keep track of the colleges you are applying to, including college deadline dates, needed materials, and more! Consider using this as a template:

[College Application Tracking Chart](#)



Start your Common App

www.commonapp.org

You can apply to most colleges through the Common App. Get ahead of the game and start your application today. A lot of the application is simple data entry!

***Important: Be sure to invite your school counselor right away so we know your deadlines.*

***Here is the link to information about class size, GPAs, rankings, and contact information.*

[Common Application INFO to KNOW!](#)

Inviting Your School Counselor to the Common App

Inviting your counselor to the Common App is a critical part of the college application process. Please complete the steps to invite your counselor as soon as possible so she can be sure to upload your transcript, recommendation letter, and other required information by your deadlines. Please note, we need **at least 3 weeks notice.**

Steps to adding your school counselor:

1. Go to the "My Colleges" Tab
2. Click on FERPA & Recommenders
3. Fill out the FERPA Waiver: We recommend that you waive your right to see your recommendations. Why? So colleges believe the letter is accurate.
4. Add your counselor - ***be sure to spell their name correctly in the email address or they will not see your request.***

Additional Planning Tasks For September

Counselor Letter of Recommendation Fill in your Questionnaires

Counselor recommendations are a required part of most 4-year college applications. Prior to writing a letter, we ask that you complete and return your student and parent questionnaires or “brag sheets” to your school counselor. These questionnaires will assist your counselor in writing the very best possible letter of recommendation for you.

***Please be assured that we take your deadline dates seriously and your letters will be uploaded and sent to your schools by your deadlines.*

[College Recommendation Brag Sheet](#)

[Parent/Guardian Brag Sheet](#)

Teacher Letters of Recommendation

Most college applications will require 1-2 teacher recommendations. Typically colleges want these from 11th or 12th grade core area teachers. Please give teachers at least 3 weeks notice and fill out any forms they request from you.

Attend College Rep Visits at FHS!

Did you know that many college admissions representatives come to Freeport High School to visit with students? These meetings are a great way to make a connection and a good impression with your admissions counselor - and can sometimes make a difference in the admissions decision!

Click here for the schedule & sign up form:

[College Rep Visits](#)

Attend a College Open House

Open Houses are a great way to visit a college campus. Please note that you have to pre-register for each event. Here is a list of some of the local open houses.

[College Open Houses 2024](#)



Sign up for the School Day SAT Tuesday, October 1

FHS will be a testing site for the Tuesday, October 1 administration of the SAT. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please register using the link below. Cost of the exam will be \$68. Checks can be made payable to Freeport High School and turned into the Guidance Office. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch qualify for a fee reduction. Please reach out to your counselor if you are in need of financial assistance. **NOTE: DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9.**

[Register](#) here for the SAT Tues, Oct. 1

Consider Registering For Another SAT Date

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration
October 5, 2024	September 20, 2024	September 24, 2024
November 2, 2024	October 18, 2024	October 22, 2024
December 7, 2024	November 22, 2024	November 26, 2024

*Please note students need to register for WEEKEND SAT Administrations through their CollegeBoard account. Freeport High School is not a testing site - students will have a choice of a few local area schools.

Financial Aid Information



Changes to the FAFSA

The FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is the form that all colleges use to determine federal aid. As some of you may know, the FAFSA was simplified last year and the new estimated date the FAFSA to open is early December.

Link to the FAFSA: [FAFSA Application](#)

Check for the CSS Profile



The CSS Profile is used by 300 colleges to determine institution aid. There are financial aid deadlines for schools using the CSS Profile. Schools requiring the CSS Profile may have a deadline prior to your FAFSA deadline. Check each of your schools to see whether they are a CSS Profile School and be sure to pay attention to deadline dates.

Click here for access to the CSS Profile:

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

Other Financial Aid Tips

- Check the Financial Aid tab on each school's website. Each school has a separate financial aid application, typically due on the same day as your application or within 1-2 weeks of your deadline.
 - Use the Net Price Calculator to determine what type of aid you might receive.
 - Look for any grants/merit scholarships on each school's website. Some are automatic, some you have to fill out a separate application to receive them.
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Save the Date: Financial Aid Events

October 1

Financial Aid Webinar Hosted by Bill Smith
Financial Aid Expert & Owner of ScholarFits

Registration Link & Details to follow

October 29

FAME Maine Presents:
FAFSA Overview & FSA ID Creation Night

Tuesday, October 29 from 5:30-6:30 PM

FHS Library

Keeping Track of your Mental Health During College Applications

The college application process can be an exciting time as well as one that can be increasingly stressful. Not only are you juggling many responsibilities, you are also being asked to make big decisions about your future.

During this time it is important that you take care of yourself and seek out support and resources along the way. Here are some ways to reduce stress during the application process:

- Seek out support. Parents, peers, teachers and school counselors are all here for you.
- Recognize how this process is impacting you and talk about it with a trusted person.
- Try to keep perspective that there are many great schools out there and if one door closes there are many others that will lead you to wonderful places.
- Be organized! Break down the steps and start plugging away at your checklist now. Summer is a great time to generate essay ideas, establish your common app account, and develop a solid college list.



At any point in time in this process be sure to seek out support when needed.

Mental Health Resources

JED Set To Go Program: Leaving high school and moving out on your own is a big transition that is so much easier and enjoyable when you have support. Set to Go has easy-to-use resources for students and families to help students think about, plan for, and step into the future they want. [JED Set To Go Program Link](#)

Tips for Handling College Application Stress: [JED Tips for College Application Stress](#)

Remember....

- An elite college education is not a golden ticket to success and happiness.
- Be sure to have realistic expectations when making your college choices.
- What you do when you get to college is more important than where you go - sometimes you will have more opportunities at non-elite schools.
- Keep a proper perspective and recognize there are many choices. Remember, there are over 5,300 Colleges & Universities in the United States and most of them have high acceptance rates.