

Class of 2023 College Planning Checklist

College planning can feel “big” but it is easily broken down into small steps. Use this guide to stay on track!

Second Semester of Junior Year

- ☐ Review your PSAT score and score report to understand your strengths and areas of improvement on the SAT (see your Counselor if you cannot locate your score report)
 - ☐ Develop a study plan for the SAT if needed, consider linking your PSAT score report with the Khan Academy for free, personalized support (access code on your score report)
 - ☐ Register for the SAT and/or ACT
 - ☐ Begin to consider what will be important to you in choosing a college (for example, distance from home, size, majors offered, cost) Discuss these factors with your family
 - ☐ Use Naviance, College Board’s Big Future and other resources to begin researching schools that meet your criteria
 - ☐ Visit the Admissions page of schools that you are interested to review their application timeline and requirements
 - ☐ Pay close attention to “test-optional” policies and consider how they impact your standardized testing plan
 - ☐ Sign-up to join mailing lists, virtual information sessions and campus tours (when available) at the colleges you are considering
 - ☐ Begin to build your “Colleges I am Thinking About” list in Naviance
 - ☐ Update your resume in Naviance – doing so will help you when completing your applications and will also help teachers writing your letters of recommendation
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Summer Before Senior Year

- ☐ Continue to research and visit schools with the goal of refining your list to include reach, target and likely schools
- ☐ As you decided where to apply move colleges from your “Colleges I am Thinking About” list to your “Colleges I am Applying to” list in Naviance
- ☐ Get organized! Determine what application type (Common App or direct to institution) and deadline each of your prospective schools requires
- ☐ Ensure that you have an appropriate email address that you check regularly (not @delranschools.org) – use the same email address and consider using the same password for each application that you complete for ease of memory

- ☐ Review the essay writing prompts/requirements for each of your applications and begin to brainstorm your responses
- ☐ Begin completing your college applications in early August – stay tuned for a college application support day at DHS!

First Semester of Senior Year

- ☐ Make final edits to your applications and essays and request support as needed
- ☐ Ensure that your “Colleges I am Applying to” list and resume are up to date in Naviance for your counselor’s and teachers’ view
- ☐ Request letters of recommendation from teachers in-person and in Naviance – pay attention to the specific requirements of your colleges
- ☐ Aim to submit your application in advance of targeted deadlines
- ☐ Monitor your email regularly for application updates and further direction from your colleges (you will likely be instructed to log in to applicant portals)
- ☐ Begin to investigate scholarship options – consider creating an account with Going Merry, Fastweb and view the Guidance Department’s Scholarship page regularly
- ☐ Create a FSA ID (<https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>) which is needed to electronically sign financial aid forms
- ☐ Begin completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid on or soon after October 1 (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>)
- ☐ Make every effort to have a strong first marking period/first semester as current grades may be requested during your application review and avoid schedule changes once you have submitted your applications and as any change will require communication to your prospective colleges
- ☐ Check in regularly with your School Counselor for support – congratulations you’ve applied to college!

Frequently Needed Account Information

- ☐ Naviance Username and Password:
- ☐ College Board Username and Password:
- ☐ Common Application Username and Password: