



WEST CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2026 SENIOR GUIDE BOOK

The following document is a guide to assist you with things you should do throughout your senior year. This is not a full complete list, but we have captured some of the important tasks for each month. It is important to continue to speak with your teachers, college advisor, counselor, parents and your support system. We are all in this together to see you achieve your goal of graduating from High School and starting your next chapter!!!!





September

1. Create Accounts

In the beginning of your college process, you need to have three accounts created to make this process as smooth as possible:

A CFNC account- www.cfnc.org

A FAFSA ID- www.studentaid.gov

Residency Determination Number- www.ncresidency.cfnc.org

2. Mark your calendar for upcoming college events

Whether it's due dates for applications and scholarships or an open house event, make sure you have all your dates planned out for the year. Mark the dates and times in your calendar so you can easily plan your day around it.

3. Plan college visits

Even if you have already visited a few schools, setting foot on college campuses during your senior year will help you determine whether or not the community, school facilities, and student life are the right fit for you.

4. Register for the ACT/SAT

Sign up for the tests so you have adequate time to study and prepare beforehand.

5. Start gathering application information

Between collecting letters of recommendation and prepping your admissions essays, preparing your college applications early will save you a lot of stress later on. There's no such thing as being too prepared, especially during your senior year of high school!

6. Research scholarships

Financial aid is offered by colleges, the government, and other private foundations. Find out what scholarships you can apply for early so you can spend time applying for a wide variety of them!

October

1. Take the SAT or ACT

Take one or both of these tests to get your best score sent to your top colleges.

2. Apply for Financial Aid



Oct. 1st is the date that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens. Many students complete the FAFSA for Federal Grants and student loans to help pay for college.

3. Visit your top school choices

Not only will you be able to make a better decision after visiting schools again, but you also might be able to hand in your application in person. Some schools are allowing students to visit, and some are still conducting virtual visits.

4. Finish your applications

You might want to turn in your application for early admission. Some schools will waive the application fee if you do so.

5. Free College Application Week

Oct. 16th - 20th is Free College Application Week. You will be able to apply to a number of NC colleges for free during this week. The goal is to at least apply to one college.

6. Take the ASVAB Exam

If you're interested in joining the military after high school, you must take the ASVAB exam. Please see our Career Development Coordinator, Your Counselor or a JROTC Teacher for more information

7. Don't forget to have fun!

Have fun with friends and take breaks during this busy time. Taking time to relax will help you be more productive later on

November

1. Be sure to apply for early admission

Most colleges' early admissions happen in early November.

2. Make sure you have all the tests your schools require

Contact your admissions counselor and confirm they received your test scores.

3. Go to college planning events or college fairs

It's helpful to attend workshops that give information about what types of colleges might be good for you or guide you in choosing a major.



4. Have your letters of recommendation ready to go

Ask your favorite teachers for references so you can turn in the letters for your college and/or scholarship applications. Give them at least a two week advance notice.

5. Enjoy Thanksgiving!

Do your best so you do not stress, and take time to kick back with family and friends for the holiday

December

1. Apply for Financial Aid

December is the month that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens this school year. Many students complete the FAFSA for Federal Grants and student loans to help pay for college.

2. You might hear back from early admissions

If you were accepted to your top choices, congratulations! If you were wait-listed or rejected, just keep working hard and apply to other colleges. The place for you is out there.

3. Don't forget about GPA

You'll still want to maintain your grades, especially for scholarship reasons. Schools require a transcript at the end of the school year.

4. Cap and Gown

Dec. 31st is the deadline for all cap and gown orders. Visit www.herfjones.com to order yours.

5. Enjoy the holiday!

You deserve some time off. Sing carols and eat cookies with your family during this Christmas season!

January

1. Make sure any scholarship applications are turned in on time

Check colleges' websites to make sure you don't miss their deadlines.

2. If you have not visited a college yet, it is not too late

Your college decision will be easier if you've gotten a feel for the campuses.



3. The waiting game begins

A lot of the Spring semester is waiting to hear back about admission and scholarships. Be patient and keep your studies up!

February

1. Don't forget about your extracurricular activities and grades

We can't stress this enough - don't slack off, no matter how tempted you might be.

2. Make sure you are on track to graduate

Talk to your school counselor to make sure you have all the credits you need to graduate. Do not forget to purchase your cap and gown!

3. Find out if you need or want to take AP, CLEP, or SAT Subject Tests

Some of these tests can qualify as college credit at many schools. See which ones work for you.

4. Rank your top college choices

Whether by tuition costs, academic programs, or location, start deciding which college is your top choice.

5. Make sure you have not missed scholarship and housing deadlines

You wouldn't want to miss a good scholarship opportunity because you forgot the date.

6. Write thank-you notes to anyone who wrote you a letter of recommendation

Your teacher, pastor, or family friend that wrote that letter helped contribute to your acceptance. Even if you were not accepted, you should still show your gratitude for the time they spent recommending you.

March

1. You should be hearing from colleges soon

While waiting for that email or letter to appear, you might be worried. Just know that the right college is out there and you'll get accepted before you know it!

3. Prepare to visit again

Many colleges offer admitted students events.



4. Create your Summer plans

Whether working a summer job or traveling with friends, start preparing your summer with pleasure reading and vacations.

April

1. Start comparing scholarships

How much scholarship money you get from a school might be helpful in choosing which college or university you'll attend.

2. Make deposits and finalize your school decisions

Most due dates for a final decision is in April or early May. Do you know where you want to go yet? Decide soon!

3. Remember: May 1st is National College Decision Day

Make sure you're prepared

May

1. Create college to-do lists

Whether dorm room shopping or finding a roommate, start figuring out what you need to do before you head off to college.

2. Keep finalizing summer plans

Don't be so caught up in your excitement for college that you forget to have a good summer.

3. Have fun doing normal senior activities

Go to graduation parties, have a blast at prom, and make those final memories with your friends.

4. Find connections at your future school

Whether finding a roommate or making some friends in your upcoming class, try to get to know some students at your university.

5. Get all your health forms together

While shots are annoying, make sure you're up to date on vaccinations.

6. Toss that cap and have a great summer



Congratulations! You've made it! You graduated high school. Have a great summer and get ready for the next best chapter of your life!