MONTHLY COLLEGE PLANNING GOALS- 12th Grade

This timeline is meant as a guide. Each student's timing & situation is unique & may vary. Use your counselor to help you navigate the college process.

SEPTEMBER

● Narrow your list of colleges to 5 to 10.

● Continue visiting schools, and talk to college representatives who visit your school.

● Create a master list or calendar that includes:

- ❖ Tests you'll take and their fees, dates, and registration deadlines
- ❖ College application deadlines
- ❖ Financial Aid Application Forms required and their deadlines
- ❖ Other materials you'll need (recommendations, transcripts, supplemental essays, etc.)

● Ask your teachers for recommendation letters. If they agree, add them and your counselor to the Common Application.

● If you plan to apply Early Decision or Early Action, get started on your applications right away and alert your counselor. Deadlines for early applications tend to be in early November (but sometimes as early as October).

● Register at the NCAA clearinghouse if you are considering playing Division I or II athletics in college.

OCTOBER

● Try to finalize your college choices.

● Meet with your counselor if you haven't already done so.

● Submit a FAFSA Earlier: Students will be able to file the FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, of your graduation year.

● Make sure to release your standardized test scores from The College Board and ACT 2-3 weeks prior to the application deadline. Counselors DO NOT send test scores to schools.
● Review the CSS/Financial Aid Profile to see if any of the schools you are applying to require you to fill it out. If required, complete and submit.
● If you're applying early decision or early action, finish the essays for that application now.

NOVEMBER

● Review all deadlines and plan accordingly.
● Continue to work on applications
● Complete and proofread college essays by mid-November (by end of October if applying under Early Decision or Early Action contracts).

DECEMBER

● Work on completing college applications.
● Check deadlines.
● Make sure all colleges have received your standardized test scores directly from the College Board and/or ACT.

JANUARY

● Work on completing college applications.
● DOUBLE CHECK to make sure all financial aid documents have been submitted by the college's deadline.

FEBRUARY

● Begin to explore scholarship opportunities.
● Withdraw your applications if you have been accepted and have made your decision.

● Continue to focus on school! Accepting colleges do look at second-semester senior grades.

MARCH

- You will begin to hear back about your applications this month! Breathe.
- Keep active in school. If you are wait-listed, the college will want to know what you have accomplished between the time you applied and learned of its decision.
- Complete the Frontier Financial Aid form to be eligible for scholarships given at graduation.
- Apply to scholarships!

APRIL

- At this point, you should have heard back from all of your schools!
- Make your final decision.
- If you are struggling to decide - Weigh pros and cons and speak with your family and other adults in your life.

MAY

- Put a deposit down by May 1.
- Wait-listed by a college? If you will enroll if accepted, tell the admissions director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask whether funds will be available if you're accepted.

JUNE

- Ask your high school to send a final transcript to your college.
- Graduate and celebrate your accomplishments! You have worked so hard to get to this point. Congratulations!!!