Holcomb High School
12th Grade Checklist
Updated: 09/2021

Student Checklist:

ALL YEAR:

- ❏ Work hard all the way to graduation - second-semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility.
- ❏ Stay involved in after-school activities and seek leadership roles if possible.
- ❏ Schedule a campus tour/visit for schools of interest. Seniors are allotted 2 college visit days. Complete the College Visitation Permit and be sure all necessary signatures are included.

FALL:

- ❏ As soon as possible after the October 1st opening, complete and submit your FAFSA form, along with any other financial aid applications your chosen school(s) may require. You should submit your FAFSA form by the earliest financial aid deadline of the schools to which you are applying, usually by early February. You are encouraged to submit your FAFSA as early as possible.
- ❏ After you submit your FAFSA form, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within three days to three weeks. This document lists your answers to the questions on your FAFSA form and gives you some basic information about your aid eligibility. Quickly make any necessary corrections and submit them to the FAFSA processor.
- ❏ If you haven't done so already, register for and take the standardized tests required for college admission. Check with colleges you are interested in to see what tests they require, or if they are test-optional
- ❏ Apply to the colleges you have chosen. Prepare your application carefully. Follow the instructions, and PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DEADLINES!
- ❏ Well before your college application deadlines, ask your counselor and teachers to submit the required documents (e.g., transcript, letters of recommendation) to the colleges to which you're applying.
- ❏ Decide which teachers and other people you would like to write letters of recommendation
- ❏ Contact those individuals and ask if they would be interested in writing a letter of recommendation for you, allowing plenty of time to complete the letter.
- ❏ Complete any last scholarship applications and make a list of any scholarships to apply for in the Spring.
- ❏ Understand the FAFSA process better by watching the videos in the "FAFSA: Apply for Aid" playlist at YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid.
- ❏ Follow or like the office of Federal Student Aid at Twitter.com/FAFSA and Facebook.com/FederalStudentAid to get regular financial aid tips.

SPRING:

- ❏ Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll. (Complete College Visitation Permit).
- ❏ Review your college acceptances and compare the colleges' financial aid offers.

- ❑ Contact a school's financial aid office if you have questions about the aid that school has offered you. In fact, getting to know your financial aid staff early is a good idea no matter what - they can tell you about deadlines, other aid for which you might wish to apply, and important paperwork you might need to submit.
- ❑ When you decide which school you want to attend, notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit. Many schools require this notification and deposit by **May 1**.
- ❑ Make informed decisions about student loans; the follow resources are important at this point:
    - ❑ Federal Versus Private Loans
    - ❑ Federal Student Loans: Basics for Students

REMEMBER: Register for all tests in advance and be sure to give yourself time to prepare appropriately! If you have difficulty paying a registration fee, see Mrs. Johnson about applying for a fee waiver.

Parent Checklist:

- ❑ Work with your student on filling out the FAFSA form.
- ❑ Make sure your student's personal information is safe when he or she applies for financial aid. For tips, read Federal Student Aid and Identity Theft.
- ❑ Read IRS Publication 970 Tax Benefits for Education to see how you might benefit from federal income tax credits for education expenses.
- ❑ Understand the benefits of federal student loans.
- ❑ Help your student learn about the responsibilities involved in accepting a student loan by reviewing "What should I consider when taking out federal student loans?" with him or her.
- ❑ Look at communications from schools to which your student sent FAFSA information. If a school has offered you or your student Direct Loans, the Federal Student Loans: Basics for Students and Federal Student Loans: Direct PLUS Loan Basics for Parents might be useful to you.
- ❑ Take a look at your financial situation and be sure you're on the right track to pay for college.
- ❑ Get in-depth information on federal student aid programs
- ❑ Talk to your student about the schools he or she is considering. Ask why those schools appeal to your student, and help or her clarify goals and priorities.
- ❑ Attend college fairs with your student, but don't take over the conversation with the college representatives. Just listen and let your student do the talking.
- ❑ Take your student to visit college campuses, preferably when classes are in session.
- ❑ Make sure your student is looking into or already has applied for scholarships.
- ❑ Ask your employer whether scholarships are available for employees' children.
- ❑ Learn about student and parent loans in Federal Student Loans: Basics for Students and Federal Student Loans: Direct PLUS Loan Basics for Parents.

Resources:
www.studentaid.gov