**Senior Year “TO-DO” List**

**August**

* Attend **Locker Day** to pick up your class schedule and confirm your classes. Do you have what your colleges are looking for? Rigor and Effort?
* Sign up for SAT/ACT, either for the first time or to improve on past scores
* Create a calendar to keep track of important dates and deadlines
* Begin to finalize your ‘target list’ of colleges you would like to apply to (range from 3-15)
* Begin working on the **Common Application** and/or **SUNY Application**

**September**

* Request any course or **schedule changes** no later than the end of the **Add/Drop** period.
* **Admissions Tests**:  Sign up quickly to ensure scores are received in time for applications
* **Visit with College Reps** in the Counseling Office. Check the calendar often to ensure you don’t miss an opportunity to meet Admissions Reps from your choice college(s)
* **Know your deadlines**:  Check on application and financial aid deadlines for the schools to which you plan to apply. They may vary and it is essential to meet all deadlines!
* **Individual Senior Meetings:** Meet with your high school counselor to discuss your list of colleges. Review your transcript, co-curricular records and progress toward graduation.
* **Recommendations:** At least two weeks before the due date, ask your counselor, teachers, employers, and/or coaches to write letters of recommendation. Provide recommendation forms and any special instructions. Remember to write thank you notes!
* **Road Trip**:  Plan any remaining visits to colleges.  Is there an open house you could attend?  Even if you can’t travel until December, reserve your interview slot now to ensure you get the dates you want.
* Complete **NCAA form** if planning to play intercollegiate Div. I or II athletics  [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://links.schoolloop.com/link/rd?href=736c5f6c696e6b6666303163633065623266687474703a2f2f7777772e6e636161636c656172696e67686f7573652e6e65742f)
* **Check on Financial Aid and Scholarship opportunity at choice colleges** Does your school require a CSS Profile ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org))? If so, it can be filled out beginning in the fall. *FAFSA (*[*www.fafsa.gov*](http://www.fafsa.gov)*) deadlines have changed (2017), be sure to attend Financial Aid night in the fall to learn about the process*.

**October**

* **Essays**:  Begin your college essay(s) now.
* **College Night**:  Attend the regional college fair at ***SUNY Plattsburgh Fieldhouse*** (early October). Meet with representatives from colleges you are interested in or to meet new prospective schools.
* **Early Applications**:  If applying for early action or early decision, deadlines begin as early as November 1. Be sure to have all required documents.
* **Testing Continues:** Have all your tests completed? If not, sign up NOW, time is running out
* **Score Reports**:  Have official test scores sent by the testing agency to colleges on your list.  (Some Fees required)
* **Begin FAFSA** Parents and students, complete your **income tax forms** as soon as possible, those figures are required to fill out FAFSA paperwork
* **PIN Number** *(subject to change with new process)*:  If you will be pursuing financial aid (including loans), both you (the student) AND your parents need a federal PIN number to complete important processes including the FAFSA form.  Can apply for number prior to FAFSA paperwork deadlines

**November**

* Be sure your **first quarter grades** are strong and true as these will be included on transcripts
* **Continue completing applications** to colleges. Have more than one person proofread the entire application before sending
* **Keep all records**, these can help to save you time and effort when completing financial aid and scholarship applications
* **Resume?**  If you don’t have a resume yet, now is a great time to get started, as it is often required for scholarship and/or job applications
* **Continue outside scholarship research** Check with colleges and organizations outside of the school community

**December**

* **Score reports:** Have official test scores sent to colleges on your list if you have not done so
* **Review your Target List:**  Consult your school counselor again to review your final list of colleges
* If you applied for early action, and have received a decision, follow the instructions for admitted students. If the decision is deferred until spring or you are denied, submit applications now to other colleges
* **Search for national-level scholarships**:  Many national organizations offer scholarships that are not coordinated by the Counseling office
* **Request transcripts early** for late December or early January application deadlines, as the Counseling Office is closed during Holiday Break
* Don’t miss the **Alumni Panel.** Visit with LPHS graduates about transitions into life after high school

**January**

* **Keep working in your classes**! Grades and courses continue to make a difference throughout the senior year and class rank will be finalized at the end of the first semester
* Continue **submitting applications** (and requesting transcripts or recommendations) as needed
* Make sure you complete all the **financial aid forms** *(CSS Profile, FAFSA paperwork, etc.)* each of your prospective schools requires
* **Monitor your applications:**  Did the admissions office receive everything they need?
* **LPHS will automatically send mid-year transcripts**
* **Stay Focused!** Acceptances are conditional on senior year grades

**February**

* You should receive your **Student Aid Report (SAR)** within four weeks after submitting the FAFSA. Review the SAR carefully and check for any inaccuracies. If necessary, correct any items on the SAR immediately.  Still waiting for your SAR?  Check on the status
* Begin looking at **scholarship applications**. You may be eligible for more scholarships than you think, so apply for as many as you can

**March**

* **Decisions start arriving**.  Do you have your ‘first choice’ school in mind?  If not, take time to think seriously about your preferred school for next year
* **Apply for local scholarships**.  Check the calendar often to ensure all scholarships with required documents are completed by each deadline
* **Summer job options:**  Now is not too early to begin seeking summer employment

**April**

* Review your **college acceptances** and **financial aid awards**. Be sure to compare financial aid packages in your decision-making process
* Notify those colleges that granted you acceptance that you have selected another college
* **Send your tuition deposit** and follow all other instructions for admitted students. You must decide which offer of admission to accept by **May 1** (postmark date)
* Continue applying for local scholarships

**May**

* **National Decision Day is May 1**:  decide on the one college and follow admittance directions (including sending in a tuition deposit)
* **Notify the Counseling Office** of your chosen school
* **BE PROUD**-you have completed a difficult task
* If your first-choice college places you on their **waiting list**, do not lose all hope. Some students are admitted off the waiting list. Talk with your counselor, and contact the college to let them know you are still very interested. Keep the college updated on your activities
* Take **Advanced Placement examinations**, if appropriate and request that your AP scores be sent to the college you will attend

**June**

* Attend **Senior Scholarship Night** as this is where local scholarships are announced.
* **Congratulations**, you've made it through high school! Enjoy your graduation and look forward to college

**July**

* **Final Transcripts** **will be sent to colleges through the Counseling Office**
* **Look for information** in the mail from the college about housing, roommate(s), orientation, course selection, etc. Respond promptly to all requests from the college. August-September
* Ease the transition into college. Accept the fact that you'll be in charge of your academic and personal life. What you do, when you do it and how things get done will be up to you. You'll have new responsibilities and challenges. Think about budgeting your time and establishing priorities. Take charge of the changes that lie ahead and eliminate or minimize pressures. Go forth with confidence and enthusiasm, willingness to adapt and determination to succeed academically and personally.
* Pack for college. Don't forget to include things that remind you of friends and family. Be prepared for the new opportunities and challenges. Have a great freshman year!