**Senior Planning Calendar**

**2015-2016**

**May-August**

* Meet with your College Counselor to discuss your application, essays, spiritual gifts, counselor recommendations, and teacher recommendations.
* Verify that your Transcript Release form is on file in the Guidance Office.
* Meet with your teachers to discuss recommendations. Make sure a follow up discussion takes place to ensure that they have received your Teacher Recommendation Request Form and that they have mailed in the recommendation letter.
* Begin finalizing your essays and resume and review with your college counselor.

**September**

* **Attend the Christian College Fair. Date/Time/Location: TBA**
* Finalize your Early Decision and Early Action applications.
* Submit your Transcript Request through Parchment. Also, fill out a Transcript Request Form and return to the Guidance Office.
* Attend at least five on-site college visits.
* National Merit applicants submit your materials to the Guidance department.
* File for your CSS Financial Aid Profile online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).
* Meet with your college counselor, if you have not already.
* 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!
* **Submit state university applications by the preferred date of September 15th.**
* Meet with your counselor to be sure your list includes colleges appropriate to your academic and personal record. Review your transcript and co-curricular records to ensure their accuracy.
* Register for the October/November SAT Reasoning Test and/or SAT Subject Test, or September/October ACT.
* Be thoughtful! Write thank you notes to those who write recommendations and keep them informed of your decisions.
* Plan visits to colleges and set up interviews (if you didn’t get to them during the summer or if you want to return to a campus for a second time). Read bulletin boards and the college newspaper. Talk with current students and professors.

**October**

* Attend College Night at Valencia College. To find out the date, time, and location, visit the Valencia College website.
* Check with your guidance counselor or on Parchment to make sure your transcript have been/will be sent to the colleges to which you are applying.
* If applying Early Decision or Early Action, send in your application now. Also prepare applications for back up schools. Remember, if you are accepted under the Early Decision option, you are expected to enroll at that college and to withdraw all other applications. Submit financial aid information if requested from Early Decision/Action candidates.
* Register for the December/January SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Test, and/or December ACT, if you have not completed the required tests or if you are not happy with your previous test scores and think you can do better.
* Have official test scores sent by the testing agency to colleges on your list.

**November**

* Take the SAT Reasoning Test or SAT Subject Test if appropriate. Don’t forget to have test scores sent to colleges on your list.
* Be sure first quarter grades are good.
* Continue completing applications to colleges.
* Keep all records and test score reports for admission and financial aid. Do not throw anything away until at least the end of your first year in college. Having detailed records will save you time and effort should anything be lost or should you decide to apply in the future to other colleges and scholarship programs.
* Make appointments to visit college campuses.

**December**

* December 1st---First date to apply for Bright Futures.
* Have official test scores sent to colleges on your list if you have not done so.
* December 10th---Deadline to submit final applications, essays, etc. to the Guidance Office for review.
* File your last college application.
* If you applied for Early Decision, you should have an answer by now. If you are accepted, follow the instructions for admitted students. If the decision is deferred until spring or you are denied, submit applications now to other colleges.

**January**

* Keep working in your classes! Grades and courses continue to count throughout the senior year.
* Request that your counselor send transcript of your first semester grades to the colleges to which you applied.
* Apply for Bright Futures with your guidance counselor as a group.
* Parents and students: Complete your income tax forms as soon as possible. You will need those figured to fill out the FAFSA. Complete and return your FAFSA as quickly as possible after January 1st. Check to make sure your colleges or state does not require any other financial aid forms. If they do, consult your guidance counselor or contact the college’s financial aid office.

**February**

* Remember to monitor your applications to be sure that all materials are sent and received on time and that they are complete. Stay on top of things and don’t procrastinate; you can ruin your chances for admissions by missing a deadline.
* If you completed a FAFSA, 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 and return it to the FAFSA processor (if a college transmitted your data directly, notify the college of any change).
* If more than four weeks have passes after sending your FAFSA and you have not received an acknowledgement, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 319-337-5665. To identify you, they will need your name, social security number, address, and date of birth exactly as it was written on your FAFSA.
* Complete scholarship applications. You may be eligible for more scholarships than you think, so apply for as many as you can.
* Enjoy your final year of high school, but don’t catch Senioritis!

**March-April**

* Stay focused and keep studying---only a couple more months to go!!!
* April 15th---Final notification for colleges to the Guidance Office.
* Evaluate financial aid packages. Make final campus visits and pray about your decision.
* Submit all your final community service hours.

**May**

* **May 1st---Decision Day. You must notify colleges of your final decision by this date.**
* Notify the other colleges that accepted you that you have selected another college.
* If you haven’t applied for Bright Futures, you must do so before you graduate.
* Request that your counselor send your final transcript to the college you will attend. Notify the college of any private scholarship or grants you will be receiving.
* **GRADUATE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ☺**