

Senior Planning Calendar

August & September

- Your schedule should include challenging academic courses along with rigorous and interesting electives.
- Reevaluate your high school progress. Make the changes necessary to improve your academic and activity record.
- Use your planner/student handbook to keep assignments and homework organized.
- Encourage your parents to attend parent teacher conferences to meet your teachers and counselors.
- Attend local/area college fairs and information nights to start exploring colleges
- A list is available on the on Guidance website when available.
- Be sure that you and your parents are signed up for the GHS Email Announcements!
- Talk to college representatives when they visit Graham. Make sure you check the website or announcements.
- Develop a calendar for important dates and deadlines for both scholarships and applications.
- Narrow your long list of college to 3-5 colleges to which you would like to apply. Your list should include a safety school.
- Request letters of recommendation from pertinent teachers and a counselor at least two weeks in advance or sooner if possible.
- Register for the SAT or ACT also you might register for the SAT subject test (verify if your potential college list includes school that requires the SAT Subject test)
 - To register go to the SAT website (www.collegeboard.com) and the ACT website (www.actstudent.org)
- Join fall school activities, including clubs, plays, athletic team, student government, and service organization.
 - Take leadership positions when possible.

October

- Volunteer for community activities
- Begin writing ideas for your college essay, using prompts from your chosen schools or the Common Application
- If you are planning on attending college, begin preparing applications with care. Bring them to guidance office for processing.
- Make an appointment with a counselor to review your plans and request a letter of recommendation-remember the 2 week guideline.
- Attend presentations made by visiting college representatives to school and attend college fairs, and visit colleges.
- File early decision and early action applications
- Seek help from teachers, if you are starting to struggle in a subject or subjects.
- Continue to build a relationship with your counselor and teachers.
- Request letters of recommendations from two teachers if you have not already done so. Be sure to give the teachers a copy of your "Activity Resume" and a copy of your recommendation form to help them with the letter.

- Review your Progress Reports have your password to progress book throughout 1st quarter. See Teachers and/or counselors if you are having difficulty.
- Begin to visit the guidance website for scholarships or do one of the following: listen to announcements or in the wire basket on the bookshelf in guidance office.

November

- Review your report card. See Teachers, and/or counselors to see if you need tutoring, etc.
- Watch for early application deadlines for selective programs or for scholarship opportunities.
- Use college and career planning books in the Guidance office to help with your planning.
- Discuss your career and/or college plans with your counselor and parents.
- Go through your organization and filing system for all of your college and career information.

December

- If you are planning on attending college, continue to study for the SAT and ACT
 - Test preparation sessions are held at Edison State Community College for a fee.
 - The SAT website(www.collegeboard.com) and ACT website (www.ACTstudent.org) both have extensive free test prep resources online.
- Prepare thoroughly for Mid-Term exams. Guidance office send our mid-year reports to every school to which student have applied if requested by the college.
- Join winter school activities, including athletic teams, clubs and service organizations.
 - Take leadership positions when possible.
- Review your Progress Reports have your password to progress book throughout 2nd quarter.
 - See Teachers, and/or counselors if you are having difficulty.

January

- Have your parents as well as yourself attend the Financial Aid night. (Usually in the beginning of the month)
- File the FAFSA after the Financial Aid night. Must apply for a PIN number in order to do so
- Rededicate yourself after Winter Break to achieve better grades.
 - Evaluate your study habits and organization, making changes where necessary.

February

- Follow up with your colleges to see if you have sent everything for your application. Some colleges provide the ability to check on the progress of an application on their web site.
- Meet with your counselor if you are considering post-high school options other than college.
- Remember your grades. Senior grades can be very important to your admissions, especially 3rd quarter grades for those on a waiting list. All acceptance are conditional until colleges consider your final grades have met their standards

March

- Join spring school activities, including athletic teams, clubs and service organizations.
 - Take leadership positions when possible.
- College will begin notifying you of acceptance and financial aid packages. Keep your counselor aware of acceptance and discussion your options.
- Once accepted, it is the one you choose as well, Then send in a deposit. It is common courtesy to send a letter or call the colleges that you have been accepted to that you are not going to attend so someone else can have your spot.

April

- Review your report card. See Teachers, and/or counselors to see if you need tutoring, etc..
 - Talk with your teachers and other adults about your future.
- By April 15th most colleges will have notified you by this date.

May

- Colleges have a reply date of May 1st, which you must confirm with an acceptance letter and usually a deposit..
- Take the Advanced Placement Exam for an AP courses you are taking
- Prepare thoroughly for your final exam.
- Complete the senior survey as well as a final transcript paperwork.

June

- Make summer plans

Summer

- Enjoy your summer