

SENIOR YEAR CHECKLIST

August/September

- ◆ Set a goal for your grades during your senior year
- ◆ Check transcripts with your counselor to make sure you are taking the classes you need to graduate and that are relevant to your post-secondary plans
**Be aware of college preparatory requirements*
- ◆ Search the MNCIS website and other sources for college and career information
- ◆ Most colleges require students to take either the ACT or the SAT in your junior year of high school. If you need to take the ACT, go to www.act.org to register for the next test date
- ◆ Research sources of scholarships (www.fastweb.com and the MNCIS website) are great sites
- ◆ A great way to stay organized this year is to prepare a binder or folder for each college you are considering **Develop a system that works for you, it helps you from feeling overwhelmed*

October/November

- ◆ If you are planning to enter the workforce after high school, develop a career portfolio which should include your resume, letters of recommendation, and copies of your high school transcript.
**Also, you may find it beneficial to make an appointment with Job Service to explore possible job openings and the services they provide to help people find jobs*
- ◆ Create a schedule of admissions and financial aid deadlines
- ◆ Submit applications for early decision/early action programs if you are sure about which college you want to attend. Send appropriate fees and other documents required
- ◆ Look for financial aid information. Specifically look for special state, federal and local programs for which you may be able to get aid
- ◆ Visit college campuses and meet with the college representatives

November/December

- ◆ Apply to the colleges and technical schools you are interested in and find out what forms they require for admissions and financial aid
- ◆ Request high school transcripts be sent to the appropriate admissions office
- ◆ Contact financial aid office of the college as soon as possible; obtain all required financial aid forms, deadlines, and number of credit hours required to receive each type of financial aid

January/February

- ◆ Obtain a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and start filling it out www.fafsa.ed.gov
- ◆ Complete and submit the FAFSA—ASAP! Don't wait for the deadline
- ◆ Review your courses for second semester
**Be sure you select high school courses that are going to help you prepare for life after high school*
- ◆ Be sure that you have submitted all required financial aid forms
- ◆ Keep you grade up! **Beware the senior slump!*

March/April

- ◆ As college forms arrive, promptly complete and return them to colleges, don't let them sit! **Keep copies*
- ◆ If you are planning to enter the workforce, begin scheduling interviews.
- ◆ Begin planning for your summer. Are you going to take classes, work, volunteer, etc?
- ◆ Receive admissions notification from college/university or vocational/technical school
- ◆ Carefully review and compare your financial aid packages. Don't just look at how much aid you are offered; look at how much of your need is covered. Seek to optimize than maximize your award

May

- ◆ Check with your school's financial aid office if they need a copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR)
- ◆ Sign and return financial aid forms to the college you plan to attend
- ◆ Submit housing applications and a fee; if required, as soon as possible
- ◆ Notify all schools you choose not to attend. Other students may be waiting for your spot or aid.
- ◆ Notify your counselor of your final decision

June/July/August

- ◆ Attend the summer orientation session
- ◆ Make sure that you accept the financial aid award from the college you decide to attend
- ◆ Contact college to determine when fees for tuition, room and board are due