

Senior Year Preparation Check List

- **Visit colleges you are interested in attending.** You can sign up via the college's admissions website. An official visit, versus driving through or walking around on your own, is preferred.

- **Prepare for SAT or ACT retakes.**
 - *Higher scores = more scholarship dollars!*
 - ACT is offered in September, October, and December (actstudent.org)
 - SAT is offered in October, November, and December (collegeboard.org)

- **Start college application essays**
 - Some applications are open as soon as you finish junior year!
 - Others open at specific times (ex. U of M opens ~ August 1st)
 - You will create Parchment accounts in the fall, which GHS uses to send your transcripts electronically
 - You will need your Social Security Number for applications – start memorizing it!

- **Prepare for financial aid applications!**
 - NEW CHANGE: You can start completing the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** on October 1st (instead of March 1st). This means you will hear from colleges about the net cost sooner than ever!
 - NEW CHANGE: The Class of 2017 will use 2015 tax information
 - Gather 2015 tax returns and W-2 forms for parents and students and keep in a safe place. See studentaid.gov for a more detailed list of required documents.
 - You and a parent will need an FSA ID to do the FAFSA. You will create these in the Fall at fsaid.ed.gov.

- **Start your scholarship search!**
 - Look at the scholarship pages of colleges you are interested in to see what scholarships they offer based on ACT/SAT and GPA. Will retaking the ACT/SAT get you more money? Think about it!
 - Local scholarship applications will be available in the winter
 - National and state scholarships can be found through databases
 - Collegegreenlight.com
 - Zinch.com
 - Fastweb.com

- **Job shadow, intern, or work in the field(s) you are interested in.** This is the best way to see if a career field is a good fit for you, and it helps you make connections!