

Senior Year Timeline

SEPTEMBER

- Seniors will meet with their Guidance Counselors to review the college admissions process & to receive an overview on how to use Naviance Family Connection for the application process.

- Visit colleges at every opportunity! The experience of walking on to a college campus will help students as they plan for their future and figure out what type of college they are best suited for. Seniors may receive 2 days excused for college visits. The College Visit Form must be completed and turned in to obtain the excused absence.

- Students should register for the October and/or November SAT's or Subject Tests at www.collegeboard.com. For those colleges that require SAT scores, be sure to take advantage of your **four free score reports** when registering! If this is not done and the college requires SAT scores, you will have to make sure official scores are sent by the Collegeboard for an additional fee.

- Students should check with their Guidance Counselor to check on graduation requirements.

- Attend Senior Parent Night. Check NHS website & Naviance for announcements.

- Students & Parents should check Naviance for important updates and upcoming college representative visits and register if interested in a particular school.

- Students should ask teachers & their Guidance Counselor if they can write them a letter of recommendation. Complete **Guidance & Teacher Survey & provide ample time for the letters to be composed (at least 2 weeks)**. Thank you notes should be written to those who wrote the letters of recommendation!

- Students should attend open houses and

arrange college visits & interviews. Write thank you notes and e-mails after college interviews & meetings with admissions representatives.

- Set up your Common Application account at www.commonapp.org

- Seniors should schedule meetings with their Guidance Counselors frequently to touch base on post-graduation planning.

- Encourage students to work hard all year! Colleges see 1st & 2nd term grades. fight senioritis...colleges can rescind their acceptance if final grades drop drastically!

OCTOBER

- **Read directions carefully!** College applications can have different essay questions and testing & program requirements. Mistakes can reflect very poorly on candidacy for admission.

- Complete Early Decision/Early Action applications according to specific college deadlines.

- File CSS Profile if seeking financial aid from a private College/University.

- Late registration for November SAT's and if necessary SAT Subject Tests.

- Students should complete application essays & have them proof read by a reliable source.

- Fill out NCAA Clearinghouse Forms if students plan to participate in a Division 1 or 2 athletic program:

www.ncaaclearinghouse.com

- Students should check Naviance for local/national scholarship information

NOVEMBER-JANUARY

- Continue to attend College Open Houses.

- All college applications should be completed and submitted online. All addressed envelopes, application cover sheets, and requests for an *Official High School Transcript* should be given to your student's Guidance Counselor **at least 2 weeks prior to the first college deadline.**

- Read directions carefully & keep track of **college application deadlines.** Early action/decision deadlines can start as early as the end of October!

- Attend financial aid night with your parents & watch for **financial aid deadlines.** The FAFSA can be filed after January 1st.

- Students & Parents should attend College Goal Sunday if assistance completing the FAFSA is needed. For time/location visit: www.collegegoalsundayusa.org

FEBRUARY-MAY

- Check for announcements regarding Northbridge Public Schools & local scholarships. Follow application directions carefully!

- Wait patiently for admissions letters & think about potential college choices. students should update college admissions results in Naviance.

- Continue to visit colleges to help make final decisions. Review college acceptances and submit deposits by **May 1st.**

- Students should reply to colleges that accepted them but have chosen not to attend so those seats may be given to other potential applicants.

- Check Naviance & the NHS Guidance website for important financial aid websites and local scholarships. Contact college

financial aid offices or www.mefa.org if you have questions or concerns about your financial aid package.

- Students should inform their Guidance Counselor of admissions decisions so final transcripts can be sent to the appropriate college.

Helpful Guidelines for Parents:

- All parents should be sure to obtain Naviance Family Connection log in information from their child's guidance counselor! This is the most effective way of staying involved with the college application process!

- Openly discuss future plans, including financial concerns and any restrictions with your child. This should be done early in the school selection process so that everyone is on the same page.

- Encourage your child to develop independence! They are responsible for balancing homework, sports, work, and other activities now and when they arrive at college. Students should be seeking out help if they are having trouble in school. Self advocacy is key! It is strongly recommended that parents allow students to complete **their own** college applications, SAT registrations and scholarship applications.

- Contact your child's Guidance Counselor with any questions regarding graduation requirements or post graduation planning.

- Check your e-mail, phone messages, the NHS Guidance website & Naviance for important information regarding college visits, scholarships, financial aid opportunities, standardized tests, and career exploration.

- Be aware of deadlines & keep records of all contacts with schools – phone calls, names or representatives, meetings, etc.
- Attend financial aid night & watch for **financial aid deadlines**. The FAFSA can be filed after January 1st. Check Naviance & the NHS Guidance website for important financial aid websites and local scholarships. Contact college financial aid offices or www.mefa.org if you have questions or concerns about the financial aid package.
- Assist your child with payment of sending testing scores from www.collegeboard.com and college application fees on-line or by sending in a check with application packets.
- Remain positive and encourage your child to work hard in achieving success
- Stay in contact with teachers to ensure that grades do not dip once your child receives college acceptance letters. Colleges can rescind acceptances!