**SENIOR YEAR**

**FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE**

**SUMMER/FALL**

**>Estimate the cost of the college you choose.** All college websites will have a net price calculator.

**>Research/Apply for scholarship opportunities**. Websites that will help:

-**National**- bigfuture.collegeboard.org

-**Local/State**- get2college.org or desotocountyschools.org/hhs🡪 Scholarship tab

\*Ask businesses in the community and ask your parents to see if their employers may offer scholarships.

Most Local Scholarship apps are not available until the SPRING.

-**Institutional**- check the college website you want to attend for scholarships and ACT requirements. Most of the time this is your best bet.

-CHECK DEADLINES!!!

**>Student loans.** Please let this be your last option. Not all loans are equal!

>**Complete the FAFSA.** Institutions will require this to be filled out before any scholarships or loans are awarded. The Get2College Center will be here this fall to help parents that need it. We will let students know when the dates are set. Also, complete the State Aid application during this time to qualify for state aid opportunities like- MTAG, MESG, or HELP! The application opens October 1st!

**WINTER/SPRING**

**>Apply for any private scholarships you have found.** Make sure you understand and follow the application requirements and apply by the deadline. Check the scholarship section of Schoology starting at the end of January for local scholarships.

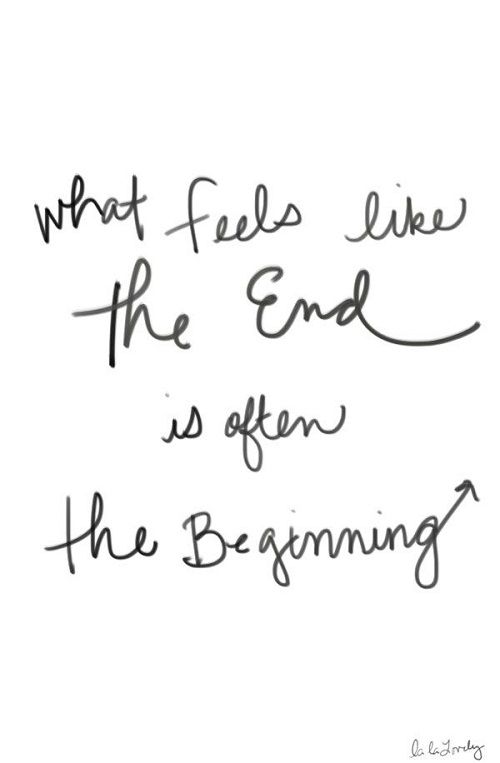
**>Compare your financial aid awards.** Colleges will send you financial aid award letters. Compare the colleges you have applied to and see which is the better offer.

**>Contact a college’s financial aid office.** They are there to help you. Do not be afraid to call and ask for other options, if you did not get enough aid to attend.

**>Complete financial aid paperwork.** You may have additional paperwork to submit for loans and scholarships to finalize. **Accept the financial aid package by the deadline.**

**>Get ready to pay the first college tuition bill.** This usually covers the first semester and is due before you enroll.

**Welcome Back Seniors**

[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjegrDd-KjcAhWinOAKHWWBAgIQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/551128073129672840/&psig=AOvVaw1uXRJP7hqQD9QhUsRrb3Ae&ust=1532013203270330)

**Get Started…**

**>Apply to colleges.** Step 1 is to apply! Applications are found on college websites. Apply to a few and make sure to have a “back-up” plan. All students should apply to Northwest (or another Community College)- you never know what will happen!

**>Figure out cost and financial aid.** Refer to the financial aid timeline for scholarship search help.

**>Send transcripts to the institutions where you apply.** Mrs. Wood will have a transcript request form available starting August 12th. Fill it out completely! Transcripts are sent every two weeks, so plan ahead and do not miss institutional deadlines. The first transcript will be sent for free, each one after that the student will have to bring a stamped and addressed envelope to the institution.

>**Recommendation letters**. If you need a recommendation letter from the counselor or a teacher ASK EARLY. Mrs. Wood will require either a resume or a rec. letter form before completing the request and the turnaround time is a week. The resume form can be found on Schoology or our website.

**>Last chances to take the ACT.** Some colleges will only accept ACT scores taken through December of your senior year. Always check with the college you plan to attend.

**>Complete your FAFSA.** If you plan to attend college, fill this out! Institutions will require that this is done before any scholarships or loans will be awarded. The FAFSA application will open October 1st.

[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjc1Kaq96jcAhVwQt8KHaUVD2gQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https://www.bbrook.org/Page/3075&psig=AOvVaw2kkgngxwrgqpzHVbNOKRzS&ust=1532012991171439)

September 3rd : HHS College Colors Day (virtually)

September 24th: HERF Jones and Get2College (9:00am-students and 6:00pm-parents)

October 1stt: FAFSA Application Opens

October 8th: FAFSA Day 9-3 (Get2College will be here to help fill out the FAFSA-appt req.)

October 22nd: FAFSA Day #2 1-6

December 1st: Scholarship deadlines for some major Universities

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