

Beecher High School Senior Year Checklist

Summer

✓ **Start working on your application essays.**

This is HUGE!!!! Compose a rough draft(s) of any essay(s) you will need for you college applications. Start with a personal essay. When you come back in the fall, have an English teacher or someone you trust to read and discuss with you. Make any revisions to your essay and prepare final drafts. Try to focus on writing a story to where something or someone has made an impact on your life or what you have learned from an experience, you want to engage the person. You can write some of you're accomplishments, but try to be unique. Don't forget to proofread your final essays a few times. This will also help you when applying for scholarships.

✓ **Brag Sheet/Letters of Recommendations**

Start on a brag sheet (resume) listing your extra-curricular activities, Honors/AP classes taken, any awards, volunteer work etc. Why is this important? Because you will need to get at least 5 letters of recommendations from a teacher, boss, coach, counselor or principal, basically someone whom you are close to. So start thinking about who will be writing your letters of recommendations.

✓ **Visit colleges**

Visit the campuses of your top five college choices. Take a tour and speak with the admissions and financial aid staff. This may be tough to do but try to at least visit one or two. You may also be able to talk to students if some classes are in session. If you have an interview, be sure to send a thank-you letter to the interviewer once you return home. You will be meeting individually with Mr. Sarsany in the fall to go over post-secondary plans.

✓ **Start looking at scholarships**

It's never too early. Every year students ask me about scholarships, it is a ton of work, however, there is a ton of money out there. Start by visiting <http://www.beecher200u.org/school-services/high-school-counseling-and-careers> I will also be emailing parents and you with updated scholarships.

Academics:

- ✓ Make sure you have completed your graduation requirements and are meeting the course requirements of the colleges on your lists.
- ✓ Your admission is contingent upon a consistent academic performance on the final transcript. Keep up the hard work!
- ✓ Take the ACT or SAT again if you feel you need to boost your score for college admission or scholarship consideration.

Activities:

- ✓ Finish your list of activities and make sure your counselor gets a copy so they can write an accurate letter of recommendation for you.

Legwork:

- ✓ **September/October:** Review your college lists with your counselor and parents. Take note of their application deadlines and apply accordingly. Order your transcript either through Career Cruising or Guidance office.
- ✓ **November/December:** Keep track of your deadlines and fill out each application carefully. Write and edit your essays and give them to your English teacher to proofread. Send your official ACT score to the colleges you are applying to. This is done through the ACT website. Your ACT score is on official transcript so you may not have to do this.
- ✓ **January/February:** A month from the date you submitted your application, call colleges and confirm that it is complete. Attend FAFSA Night at Beecher High School. Many colleges require FAFSA. Earlier the better!!!!
- ✓ **March/April:** As decisions arrive stay calm and breathe! Explore the colleges where you've been accepted. Visit the campuses again. Make sure the environment is a good fit for you.
- ✓ **May 1:** Make your college decision official by sending in your deposit. Finally! Double check to make sure your final transcript is sent to the college.

Resources:

The resource for Managing College Applications:

Free Mobile & Webb App:

www.nexttiereducation.com

Career Cruising

www.careercruising.com

Free ACT Prep site:

www.prepfactory.com

BOBCATS

