

PPCHS

College Application Timeline

August/September

- ✓ Start applications. It is never too soon to start loading the applications with the background information (address, parents, etc.).
- ✓ Make sure you have your list of colleges. Students should apply to a dream school, safety school and several in between. This is also the time to decide if you are applying early decision, early action or regular decision. Make sure you know the pros and cons of applying early. There are many ways to decide which schools to apply to. Also, don't panic about determining a major...you have plenty of time to decide and many schools do not even consider it for the admission process.
- ✓ Check college admissions websites for applications, deadlines, financial aid, separate scholarship applications, and housing information. Make a checklist with your specific schools so you don't miss any critical dates. Checklist should include: test scores sent, application sent, financial aid forms or separate applications sent, recommendations sent, transcripts sent, fee paid.
- ✓ Sign up for any last minute SAT's or ACT's or subject tests. You can sign up on www.collegeboard.com or www.act.org.
- ✓ If you are done testing, make sure your scores are sent to the colleges. Colleges need applications, scores and transcripts (or SSAR) to make decisions.
- ✓ Make sure all communication with a college comes from you...never a parent.
- ✓ Make sure your senior year schedule shows rigor.
- ✓ Address the "blips" on your application. If there was a poor grade or two, and a reason for this, colleges need to know. They see blips all the time, but they need to understand what happened.
- ✓ DO NOT hit the send button on your college applications until you are set on your senior year schedule.
- ✓ Finalize your resume. The applications will be much easier if you have everything in front of you.
- ✓ Keep a running list of any passwords or user ids you set up for applications, scholarships or websites, I promise you will forget them.
- ✓ If this has not been done, now is the time to create an email that is professional/appropriate for use on your college applications.
- ✓ Ask teachers for letter of recommendation. Give them plenty of notice (minimum 2 weeks)!!! Make sure you ask a teacher of a core subject from junior or senior year.
- ✓ Make sure applications have gone out early to Florida schools on rolling admission.
- ✓ Transcripts. Make sure you request your transcript through Parchment.

- ✓ Finalize college essay. The essays and letters of recommendation are an important part of the application and your only opportunity to show how you are different than everyone else. Make sure you love every word, it is authentic and your voice, and it addresses the prompt!
- ✓ You can use the same SSAR for all Florida schools using the SSAR. Just make sure you link it to the individual schools.

October

- ✓ Bright futures starts October 1st. Ms. Fernandez will help ALL Seniors complete their application. Make sure to view the updated requirements on our website: <http://academicvillage.pinescharter.net/373/Bright-Futures>
- ✓ FAFSA opens. Go to **www.fafsa.ed.gov** and fill it out.
- ✓ Attend college fairs, school visits, and college tours. This is an invaluable time to make a personal connection with the person reading your application.
- ✓ Register on scholarship search engines...there are real scholarship websites and money left on the table every year because students don't utilize the different options. Don't be lazy!
(<http://academicvillage.pinescharter.net/280/Scholarships>)
- ✓ Set up any interviews. If the colleges are willing to provide them, you should take advantage of that. Anything in an application that is optional means DO IT!

November

- ✓ Keep checking websites to make sure everything is in. Colleges won't text or tweet you and often things will go to your spam. Check every night.
- ✓ Make sure you don't miss the November 1st deadline for early decision or early action.
- ✓ CSS profile...if that is not in by the deadline (depends on the school), the school does not need to tell you what your EFC (expected family contribution) will be at the time of acceptance. Some schools require it if apply early but it is usually hard to find on the website. Find it, fill it out, and send it in.
- ✓ University of Florida is due by Nov. 1. The SSAR (student self-academic report) is not due until December 1st. **Last date scores will be accepted is November.**
- ✓ FSU application is due by Nov. 1st. They must have the application and a set of scores by this date or you will slip to the second deadline. It is okay to keep testing. SSAR is due by Nov. 1st, as well. **December is the last date test scores will be accepted.** February ACT for those deferred with a test score already on file or new applicant.

December

- ✓ Early Decisions are sent out mid-December.
- ✓ SSAR (Student Self-Reported Academic Report) due for UF Dec. 1st.
- ✓ FAFSA is due for most schools at the beginning of this month (please confirm with the individual schools).

January

- ✓ Regular decision applications are due usually by January 1st.
- ✓ Now that applications are out, it is time to start looking for obscure scholarships you never thought would happen.

February

- ✓ If you are wait listed or deferred, the colleges will want to be updated. Make sure you are continuing to stay strong in your clubs and activities and of course, your grades are staying up. No senioritis!
- ✓ Keep applying for scholarships!

March

- ✓ Keep applying for scholarships!

April

- ✓ Regular decisions are revealed this month.
- ✓ Keep applying for scholarships!

May

- ✓ May 1st is decision day. Must have decided where you are attending by then. Make sure you inform the schools you will not be attending, as well.
- ✓ Request final transcript from Parchment.
- ✓ Try and do as well on your AP/AICE exams as possible. It is a shame to sit in a college class all year and not get the college credit!

Summer

- ✓ If applicable....Make sure your final transcripts from Broward College (Dual Enrollment), Cambridge (AICE classes), and College Board AP Score Report are sent to the university you will be attending.