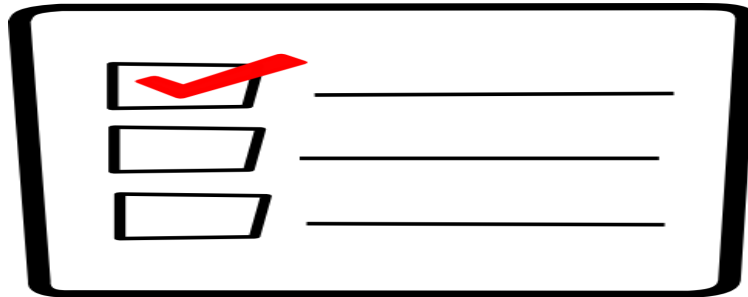


What Should I be Doing The Summer Before My Senior Year of High School?



Use the checklist as a guideline from May through August before Senior year:

- ❑ **List of colleges-** Students should devise a list of 6-8 colleges. This list should include each college's requirements for admission (average GPA, average ACT/SAT scores, and admit rate). This initial list should include colleges you hope to get into (reach schools) as well as colleges you feel more comfortable about your qualifying ability (safety schools).
- ❑ **Testing -** Students should have taken the SAT or the ACT by May of his/her Junior year. Although there is plenty of time to retest early senior year, planning ahead is key. In planning ahead you are saving yourself additional stress. Testing early allows for multiple retakes if necessary. Visit collegeboard.org or act.org for a list of upcoming test dates.
- ❑ **Create a Resume-** An academic resume is a work in progress. The summer before senior year is time to fill in any vacancies and to further explore service hours or possible internship opportunities. There is time to add to this working resume. This resume will be a requirement to write letters of recommendation from teachers and coaches as well as a great tool when filling out the activity section on your college applications.
- ❑ **Procuring Letter(s) of Recommendation-** Hopefully, you have bonded with a particular teacher. In-person students should ask this teacher if he/she would be willing to write a letter. Virtual students can email this teacher if he/she would be willing to write a letter of recommendation. You may want to include a memory about the class when asking the teacher to write a letter for you. Many private and/or out of state colleges ask for one or two letters of recommendation. These letters should be from sophomore or junior core curriculum teachers.
Possible Teacher to recommendation(s) _____
- ❑ **Working College Essay Draft-** Read through the Common Application Essay prompts. Selecting a specific prompt is not important, proving your growth and development through the prompt is. Colleges want to ensure that you can write and that you would be an asset to their campus. There are plenty of tools online to help brainstorm the college essay process.