**Senior Year College Preparation Checklist**

* Meet with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate.
* Utilize college websites to learn admission criteria, deadlines, available scholarships, set up campus visits, and gather financial aid information. Some colleges have early decision deadlines, which are usually in October and early November.
* Apply to the colleges you have chosen. Pay close attention to deadlines. Do not wait to apply. See your counselor regarding a fee waiver if you receive free or reduced lunch.
* Complete college essay (if required).
* Ask your counselor/teachers to submit letters of recommendation (if required). Request at least 2 weeks in advance. Please provide a resume or list of school activities/community service and awards/honors.
* Request your transcripts sent to the colleges you are applying to.
* Research and apply to as many scholarships as possible. Check your college websites, private scholarships, and scholarship search engines.
* Utilize Career Cruising ([www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com)) to research colleges, majors, careers, and scholarships. The counselors will have your username and passwords available.
* Prepare to apply for federal student aid. Be sure to get a PIN at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) to access your application and information online. Your parent will need a PIN as well.
* Have your parent/guardian attend Financial Aid Night hosted by South Lake High School. Date to be announced.
* As soon as possible after January, 1st, complete and submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). If you have questions or need assistance with the application call 1-800-433-3243.
* Continue to work hard all year. Senior grades can affect admission decisions and scholarships eligibility.
* Review your college acceptances and compare the colleges’ financial aid packages.
* Contact a school’s financial aid office if you have questions about the aid that the school has offered you.
* When you decide which school you want to attend, notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit.
* If you receive scholarships, please let your counselor know so we can include you in the Honors Night presentations.