

CCHS SENIOR FALL LIST

September

- Clean up your **school email** and get organized.
Be familiar with tools: flag emails (highlights); pin emails (places at top); create folders (organizes).
 - Focus** on starting this year & ending your high school academic career **STRONG!**
Reach out to teachers for help
 - Consider registering for a SAT and/or ACT See p. 35-38 of C/C Guidebook for a comparison chart
 - Visit colleges of interest virtually | connect with military recruiters & careers
Sign up for visits in SCOIR, use YouVisit, CampusReel, IACAC/NACAC
 - Finalize your college list** [5-9] or your post-high school options list
Make sure you update SCOIR as well – there are several useful features to help you sort data & info.
 - Share your future plans & interests with your parents/guardians
If you are still unsure, ask the adults in your life to describe their work & how they got there.
 - Create application calendar with deadline dates & application requirements
Look for **merit-based & program-based scholarship opportunities** - note those deadlines.
 - Know what application materials you will need & **begin applying** (if you have not already)
Edit personal essays; know your transcript & school profile; finalize resume, review test scores, etc.
 - Politely ask teachers to write letters of recommendation (LoR), if required
Give plenty of notice for these requests, three weeks is ideal. Complete Ms. Krutsinger's LoR Info. Form.
 - Look at external scholarship opportunities
FastWeb, Scholarships.com, College Greenlight, Tuition Funding Sources, Cappex, Finaid
 - Keep 2020 tax returns & financial records in a safe space (ready for FAFSA app 10/1)
Create student FSA ID and parent FSA ID at studentaid.ed.gov
 - Talk with your parents/guardians about the future as it relates to finances
What to expect and what is expected of you financially?
 - Check in with Mrs. Walls. Reach out with updates & questions
We are always excited to help you with your postsecondary journey!
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October

- Remember to check in & take care of yourself! (Lots to do with little time)
Seek help from CCHS faculty, friends & family. Go to Terriernet|Counseling|Virtual Calming Room
 - Complete your FAFSA application (and CSS Profile, if applicable), opens October 1
October completion increases your chances of receiving grant aid. This is a graduation requirement.
 - Continue submitting applications
Make it a goal to have all applications completed by November 1.
 - Make sure that all schools who need your transcript receive one by their deadline
Request your transcript by visiting TerrierNet|Counseling|Mindy Clark|*Request a Transcript*
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November - December

- Athletes, register with the NCAA or NAIA: if you have not already
 - Keep records: transcripts, test score reports, copies of applications & financial aid, as well as usernames & passwords
 - Continue to apply for scholarships: see websites listed in September
 - Complete the General Scholarship Application: available through the Counseling Dept. 12/1
 - Look for SAR (student aid report): ask questions about the financial aid process
[Mikayla.Cain@illinois.gov]
 - Stay engaged in school & finish the semester at your best!
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January - March

- Continue to monitor deadlines & submit applications. Continue looking for SAR.
 - Continue to seek scholarship opportunities: this can be time consuming but also financially rewarding
 - Continue to focus on grades, colleges will ask for your final transcript (with s2 grades)
 - Continue to check your emails, stay organized, & reach out with questions.
 - Military or Career Bound? Continue to reach out, stay connected, & apply for programming.
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April - May

- Acceptance letters & financial aid offers begin to arrive.
Review acceptances, compare financial aid packages, visit final choices if you haven't already
 - Finalize your choice with parents/family, Mrs. Walls
 - Notify the college or university which you plan to attend by May 1
Submit your housing deposit earlier to lock in your priority housing options.
 - Be sure to send final transcript, through Mrs. Clark, to your college choice
Don't forget to send any JALC or SIUC records as well.
 - If you've been offered financial aid, accept the offer & follow the instructions given
 - If you're "wait-listed" by a college you really want to attend, visit, call & write to them.
Contact the admission office to make your interest clear. Ask how you can strengthen your app.
 - Take AP exams, if applicable
 - Complete your Senior Exit Survey
 - You made it to graduation – celebrate!
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Counselor Letter of Recommendation: Info. Form

This is an effort to help me, help you and is completely optional (yet, encouraged).

Some students will require (i.e., those completing the Common Application) or will want a letter of recommendation (LoR) from your school counselor. It is my honor and privilege to share your strengths and speak to your educational journey. By completing the LoR Info. Form, you are helping me write the most comprehensive letter about you.

Questions are optional. You will be encouraged to fill out only what you are comfortable answering.
(*Required)

1. I understand that the information provided in this form will help Mrs. Walls prepare the most impactful and comprehensive LoR in support of my college applications. By sharing this information, I am giving permission for it to be shared in my LoR. *
2. What major(s) and/or career(s) are you considering; what sparked your interest? Explain your exploration process (research, independent reading, summer coursework, internships, activities, shadowing, etc.)?
3. How have you challenged yourself in high school (academics specifically: coursework, rigor, grade goals, etc.)?
4. Does your transcript accurately reflect you as a student? Why or why not?
5. Is there anything unique about your course history / transcript that I should mention to colleges (e.g., a drop/change in level, dropping a class at semester, choosing to stop a language to pursue other courses, etc.)?
6. Finish the sentence. My student experience has been painful or pleasant because...
7. Tell me about a time you struggled or failed and how you dealt with it (outside academics), or share a personal circumstance that has affected your life (e.g., unique living situation, English as a second language, etc.). Keep it simple; tell me a story.
8. Name your proudest moment during high school (either in or outside school)?
9. Have you had a job in high school? If yes, please describe the job, how long you have worked there, hours worked per week, your specific responsibilities (share if they have increased over time), and your desire for working there?
10. Name any outstanding accomplishments you would like to share (extracurricular, activities outside school, honors/awards, etc.).
11. What is one word others would use to describe you?
12. What is one word you would use to describe yourself?
13. How are you spending your time during the COVID-19 shelter-in-place mandate (i.e., S2 of your junior year) – think education, personal/social, college/career, and/or additional responsibilities?
14. What have you learned so far, come to appreciate, and/or doing to help others during this time?
15. Do you approve me sharing your responses with faculty members who you have requested to write additional letters of recommendation? *

The Counselor LoR: Info. Form (Outlook Form) will be available in July. It will be attached to the signature line of my email & available on the Class of 2021 Webpage. The form does not serve as an official request; you need to ask for a LoR formally in person or in email. It's important to give any recommender plenty of advance notice (two weeks is necessary & helpful) for well-written & thoughtful letters.