

SENIOR CALENDAR 2015-2016

Note: Transcript requests must be made in writing. Please sign the form in the counselor's office if you are 18+. Get one for your parents to sign if you are under 18. Please allow a few days for processing in case there are a lot of requests at the same time.

Remember: You must take your college entrance exams (ACT or SAT) at least six weeks before scores will be submitted to schools. If you plan to retake a test, try to do it by the December date at the latest.

Technical schools do not require the ACT, but offer the COMPASS, ACCUPLACER, or another placement test for entry into their programs.

SEPTEMBER

- ___1. September 12 ACT Test. **Registration deadline is August 7.** Register online at www.actstudent.org (our school code is 421-365). Fee waivers are available in the counselor's office for students that qualify.
- ___2. Meet with counselor to discuss career plans. At this time you will receive information on schools, scholarships, and senior year information. Narrow your postsecondary school list for applications.
- ___3. Candidates for the WUE program (Western Undergraduate Exchange) need to apply early as some schools limit the number of WUE students being accepted (these slots can fill up as early as October).
- ___4. Attend "Senior Days" at the postsecondary institutions that you are considering. These programs provide you with an opportunity to tour the campus, get information about housing, etc. Meet with the college, technical school, & military representatives who may be of interest to you when they visit our school. These will be listed in the morning announcements.
- ___5. Candidates for technical schools should be aware of the fact that some programs fill up early. Plan to submit your application in October to ensure that you can get into the program you desire.
- ___6. October 24 ACT Test. Registration deadline is September 18. Register online at www.actstudent.org (our school code is 421-365). Fee waivers are available in the counselor's office for students that qualify.
- ___7. Utilize SDMyLife at www.SDMyLife.com. Let Mrs. Sundall know if you do not have your username and password. You can use this site to create/build on to your portfolio, access career and school information, as well as prep for the ACT.
- ___8. Make your initial contact with a Legislator if you are applying to be a Legislative Page. Mr. Ermish will have this information as soon as it becomes available.
- ___9. If you plan on playing sports in college, you will need to apply to the NCAA Clearinghouse (www.eligibilitycenter.org) or register with the NAIA (www.PlayNAIA.org). This depends on which level you plan to play at. To have your NCAA (Division I or Division II) eligibility determined by the NCAA Eligibility Center or your NAIA eligibility determined by the NAIA Eligibility Center, all of your ACT or SAT test scores must be sent to them directly from the testing service. You can request that your official ACT or SAT test scores be sent by choosing them as one of the places that you want your scores sent to when you register online and by using the following codes: NCAA: 9999, NAIA: 9876. See Mrs. Sundall with questions.

OCTOBER

- ___10. Begin preparing your school applications. Check with colleges/tech schools to determine the deadline dates (application, scholarship priority, and financial aid application priority).
- ___11. Prepare application for Legislative Page. Application deadline is in November.
- ___12. Fall Planning Day is Thursday, October 22 in Rapid City. We will be taking a bus (juniors and seniors).
- ___13. ACT Test October 24.
- ___14. Senior pictures (2 shoulder) need to be turned in to the senior class advisor.

NOVEMBER

- ___ 15. Deadline for Legislative Page application.
- ___ 16. Dec 12 ACT test - register by Nov. 6.
- ___ 17. Meet again with counselor if you need help with career planning.
- ___ 18. **Remind your parents to arrange to have their taxes prepared early in January of next year. You will need these tax records to fill out the financial aid application.**

DECEMBER

- ___ 19. ACT test December 12.
- ___ 20. If you have been selected to serve as a Legislative Page - get assignments from your teachers and start working on those assignments.
- ___ 21. Prepare a summary of your school & community activities, your leadership roles, and any other information you would like your teachers to know about you (you should have a resume already completed). Provide this information when you request a letter of recommendation from them.
- ___ 22. Continue to work on scholarship applications.

JANUARY

- ___ 23. Financial Aid Information Program. This may be scheduled in November and/or February. More information will be forthcoming. You and your parents will need to attend this meeting. It is best if your parents have started filling out the financial aid application **before** attending the meeting. They can then ask questions at the meeting.
- ___ 24. Submit your completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the processor as early as possible. Try to get them submitted in January. Submit FAFSA **no later** than March 1. **You file a FAFSA over the Internet at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Get your PIN number early at www.pin.ed.gov.**
- ___ 25. **KEEP COPIES OF ALL FAFSA and TAX FORMS YOU SUBMIT.**
- ___ 26. PARENTS. Schools may request to see your tax returns to verify your FAFSA. Be sure to make copies of your tax forms.
- ___ 27. Request fall semester transcript be sent from the counselor if your postsecondary institution requires it.
- ___ 28. Attend Legislative Page session, if you have been selected for session 1 or 2.
- ___ 29. Utilize fastweb.com, scholarships.com, and other free scholarship search sites. Do not pay money for scholarship searches or fall victim to come-ons to meet somewhere to learn about how to receive scholarship dollars. Use the information and applications we provide and do free web searches. Scholarship information is available on the school website/counselor link or you can stop by the counselor's office.

FEBRUARY

- ___ 30. Make final decision regarding the post-secondary institution you wish to attend. Notify the institutions of your decision.
- ___ 31. After you have applied for Financial Aid, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). Look for Pell Grant information in your SAR. The SAR must be sent to the school that you will be attending before the school will develop a financial aid package for you.
- ___ 32. Continue to complete and send scholarship applications.

MARCH

- ___ 33. Apply for Financial Aid **no later** than March 1 to meet priority deadlines.
- ___ 34. Make housing arrangements at the institution you will be attending.
- ___ 35. Make college visits if you have not done so.
- ___ 36. If you have not received your SAR within four weeks after sending your FAFSA, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (301) 722-9200 and inquire about the status of your application.

- ___37. Complete local scholarship applications. Most are due April 1. Submit them to the proper location.

APRIL

- ___38. Watch the mail for college acceptance letters.
___39. Colleges, universities & technical institutions will issue financial aid packages. Compare the financial aid awards you receive.
___40. Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the school's deadline date.
___41. Watch for other important deadlines at your college (housing, financial aid, etc.).

MAY

- ___42. Arrange for final transcript to be sent from counselor's office. Make sure you keep her informed if you change your school plans.
___43. For voter registration information - see Mr. Ermish.
___44. For draft registration information - see Mr. Ermish.
___45. Hurrah!!! Graduation is May 21, 2016.

Best wishes for a great year!

Notes: