

November 2016

1 *Deadline for some Early Decision applications*

2 Senior Portfolio deadline for Personal and Project Narrative 1

*Remember, **common courtesy** dictates that you make an appointment with your advisor in advance. You can use e-mail to be in touch to arrange a time if you rarely see your advisor, but you still need to meet!*

3 Deadline to register for the December 3rd SAT

4 Deadline to register for the December 10th ACT

5 SAT administration date

11 Veteran's Day - a school holiday, thus an excellent time for college visits!

14-15 *Deadline for many Early Decision applications, including UNH!*

****** *If you intend to apply early, you should have notified your guidance counselor of this by now and request references from teachers ASAP since this is only two weeks away.***

19 ASVABs - Counts as a portfolio component! Gives career information! Register with your counselor! Must attend interpretation session (usually in January or February).....

December- A Look Ahead!

1 *Early Action deadline for many schools!*

2 Two Senior Portfolio deadlines:

- a) First presentation of project & portfolio to advisor, including completion of any 4 components
- b) For preliminary meeting with Guidance Counselor regarding Career Plan. All seniors should be meeting periodically with their Guidance Counselors to plan for next year, whether or not you're going to college. You will need a PINK slip stating that you've done this to take to your portfolio advisor by 12/2. **This is your key to being excused from finals in your semester classes.** Keep in mind that each counselor has multiple seniors, so please do not leave this meeting until the last moment because it will take at least part of a study period.

3 SAT Administration date

6 Winter Arts Festival- a great chance to get a component for attendance at a High School Level Cultural Event. Preapproval required.

10 ACT administration date

21 Deadline to register for the January 21st SAT

College Search and Applications- Review of Procedure

Although we have given much of this information before, some seniors are still unclear about the process, so here are some important points:

A. Reference requests in whatever form must be made in a timely manner with plenty of advanced warning (2-3 weeks). *Contacting counselors or teachers only a few days before the deadline does not give sufficient time to do the best job possible for you.*

COMMON COURTESY should prevail through this whole process:

- Ask *first* if someone is willing to write; do not *assume* that they will.
- Give writers plenty of time.

- Check first about what kind of references your colleges want and how many.
- Do not ask more writers than the number of references you need -that is a serious imposition on the limited time of teachers.

Finally, how about expressing your appreciation to those adults who spend time doing this for you????

B. Paper applications: While not too many schools do this anymore, Coe-Brown will provide manila envelopes and mail out each complete application packet for you. Official transcripts and any confidential references must be mailed directly anyway, so have references turned in to counselor, and then bring in the completed application, essay, fee, and any supporting materials, and we send everything out, along with a Profile of Coe-Brown.

C. On-line applications: Come up to Guidance anytime for individual help with your Common App.!

Common Application details:

1. The advantage of the Common App. (www.commonapp.org) is that you do JUST ONE copy on line to submit to all pertinent schools.
2. Refer to the "Important Information for Filling out College Applications" sheet in your RED folder for all vital information about Coe-Brown when filling out your applications, including the CEEB code! (300470)
3. Always check which Supplements are required for each separate college.
4. Be sure to do a print preview (*might only be available after you click "Submit"*) and have another set of eyes (Guidance Counselor, English teacher, parent) proof your application before you finalize submission. If errors are discovered after submission, they can no longer be corrected before submitting to later schools.

D. Transcripts: Review your own transcript once before it is first sent out. Make sure to have Mrs. Wolf add any new honors or activities you might have acquired since you submitted the blue sheet to her in September. (If you have not given her that sheet, do it ASAP or your transcript will be blank in that area!)

E. Check your deadlines!

F. Sending Test Scores: Remember to take advantage of the four free chances to send scores to colleges that must be used within a restricted time-frame after testing. Most colleges require electronic submission of scores, directly from Collegeboard, so plan ahead!

G. Review your potential college list with your Guidance Counselor for a reality check about whether it gives you a good range of Safety, Target, and Reach schools. College admission is NOT totally predictable as certain factors vary every year. **Prevent spring heartache:** find several Target and Safe schools which fit the same profile as your Reach schools so that you will have a choice! Include "financial safety" schools as well. Meeting with your guidance counselor will also satisfy the senior portfolio deadline for an initial planning meeting to be done before December 2.

H. College Visits (3 allowed): To have an excused day for a college visit *or* to sign up with the military:

- Bring a note from a parent *in advance*, or have them call or e-mail your counselor,
- See your Guidance Counselor for a pre-approval sheet
- If you plan to visit three or more colleges, this can be used as a Portfolio component! See your Master File Sheet for details.....
- Check the bulletin board outside of Mrs. Aseltine's office for scheduled college **Open Houses**. Check the websites of colleges in which you are interested to find out about their Open House dates.

I. Financial Aid - If you are applying for aid, *you or your parent must carefully read* about exactly what each of your schools requires regarding both forms and deadlines.

- All schools will require the FAFSA to receive any need-based aid – it can be filed NOW!
- Many schools ask for the CSS Profile also- go directly to <http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile> to complete it on line. (The *Profile* can be done with an early application and is often required.)
- A random assortment of schools will have their own institutional forms in addition to one or both of the others.
- Priority Financial Aid Deadlines are very important! Submit your forms in time to meet this; otherwise the institutional grant money might be gone. This deadline might be as soon as very early January. (The rule of thumb: the earlier your application was due, the earlier the financial aid deadline will be.)
- If you missed Financial Aid Night, we have information in Guidance.....
- Definitely do the **Net-Price Calculator** which all colleges are required to provide on their websites. Also available at <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>.

J. Scholarship Opportunities- Your best money usually will come from the financial aid package from the college you attend, but keep checking the bulletin board in the Guidance offices for other opportunities or go to www.fastweb.com or www.cappex.com.

Local scholarship information will not be out until the spring. Check with your parents to see if their workplaces offer any specific scholarships.

For **merit scholarship** consideration at some schools, get your application in *now* in November and December before the funds for those awards have been given away to others. Check out the website: www.Meritaid.com.

Senior Portfolio Issues

Optional Component #2- Save a copy of your college application to use for this instead of filling out the job application!

Community Service - Do **you** have your 40 hours done? 20 hours are due by January 4. Don't be the one spending *your* Christmas and February vacations completing them!

How's your Portfolio Project coming? If you have had second thoughts about your choice, or are coming up against financial or time constraints, now is the time to revise your plans, in consultation with your advisor, before too much time has passed.

Meet with your guidance counselor to work on your Career Plan and to get testing accomplishments certified on the Counselor Check-Off Sheet.