Beyond HCA - What should I do now?

SENIOR YEAR

Senior year is finally here! It is time to celebrate your accomplishments, but it is also a time to focus on your future. The variety of activities and tasks may seem overwhelming, so choose wisely with your commitments. Hopefully, you can build on the plans and preparations you have made during your previous high school years by following through on your final decisions regarding colleges. Be diligent regarding your academic future, but don’t forget to make memories along the way!

This is not an exhaustive list, but it will provide some sense of what you should focus on this year. For more detailed information and extensive lists, please view Helpful Websites/Resources.

Most Important Things
- Work steadily and faithfully in your classes.
- Work steadily and faithfully in your college application process. Pay very close attention to deadlines – those from the colleges and those from the College Placement Office.
- Narrow list of potential colleges down to the ones to which you will actually apply.
- Apply and decide on a college.

Things to Understand
- Keep up your grades. Senior year grades are vital. Colleges receive a mid-year report containing your first semester grades and your cumulative GPA. They also receive a final transcript after graduation. Offers of admission can be rescinded. Therefore, do not:
  - Drop your hard classes after getting your acceptance letter.
  - Decide that you can slack off.
- Making deposits at more than one college because you still haven’t decided where to go and you want to keep your options open violates the code of conduct that colleges expect students to abide by. How colleges respond to that violation if they find out is up to the college, but in some cases they will rescind the offer of admission.

This Year You Should
- Take the SAT again if you need to (early fall).
- Continue to keep records of important papers – e.g., score reports from College Board.
- File the FAFSA – for financial aid. Get PIN numbers in the fall. Finalize taxes quickly so that you can apply as soon after January 1 as possible. This applies to both the student and the parent.

Milestones to Complete
- Senior Year Resume Update
- Senior Year Fall Meeting with Mr. Robertson
- Take the SAT or ACT at least once this year