Senior Year Check Off List

Check them off as you complete them:

- Finalize the college list by making certain it is a balanced list with reach/target/safety schools
- Be sure to include an in-state safety school for financial reasons
- Review the standardized testing calendar and register for the SAT in October, November or December or the ACT in October or December
- Find out if any of the colleges on your list have separate "Scholarship Deadlines" – they are earlier than the traditional deadlines and you forfeit your opportunity for scholarship opportunities if you don't apply by that deadline
- Check your school's calendar and take advantage of any teacher work days and schedule campus visits
- See if any of the colleges you're considering offer Open House Dates or Discovery Days for seniors
- Determine which schools offer Early Action
- Decide if a binding Early Decision option at one college makes sense
- Figure out which of the colleges on your final list are on the Common Application and which are not
- Research the number of essays required or recommended by each college and create a document for each college listing their essay prompts and their deadlines
- Set up accounts on each college's website
- Prepare a timeline of activity based on each college's deadline
- Brainstorm essay ideas for colleges with the earliest deadlines first
- Write a first draft of essays
- Edit essays and yes, edit again
- Ask a trusted source to review your essays
- Meet with college representatives when they visit your school
- Review and then order high school transcripts – find out how your high school is sending transcripts to each college. Most high schools are now transmitting transcripts electronically.
- Prepare your resume/brag sheet/activity list and give it to your recommenders
- Research which colleges accept letters of recommendation and find out how many they require and how many they will accept
- Ask teachers, coaches, advisors and employers for letters of recommendation
- Begin researching scholarship opportunities