**Senior Year “13th grade” Checklist**

**August-September**

* Finalize your list of potential 13th grade choices.
* Schedule an official visit to your choices to get a feel for campuses.
* Meet with your counselor to confirm your transcripts are accurate and they will help you send them (and other necessary documents) to your 13th grade choices.
* Register to take (or retake) standardized tests: ACT, SAT, etc.
* Fill out 13th grade applications with the guidance of adults who have done it before.
* Ask for letters of recommendation, if needed.
* Explore your 13th grade’s financial aid requirement to plan your college budget. Go to how2winscholarships.com and discuss this article with your parental figures: <http://how2winscholarships.com/college-parents-and-students-discussing-the-three-cs/>
* Work on 13th grade application essays with the guidance of adults who have done it before.

**October-November**

* Attend college fairs and financial aid nights.
* Contact the Financial Aid Office at the 13th grade you choose to see which Financial Aid forms are required.
* Download a FAFSA form and get this process started.

**December-January**

* Collect family tax information in order to complete and submit your FAFSA as soon after January first as possible. *Some student aid programs award funds on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted. Waiting too long to submit your FAFSA could be costly.*
* Continue to hunt for scholarships.

**February-March**

* Don’t panic if you’re selected for “verification” or put on a “waiting list.” Just provide the college with the documents they need.
* Once you have received responses from your 13th grade choices, make your final decision based on a synthesis of many factors: which offers the best program for what your future vocation will be, the counseling of your counselors, the teaching of your teachers, and the parenting of your parents.
* Don’t let senioritis infect you. Keep the GPA up for scholarships.
* Verify your financial aid.

**April-May**

* Report #accepted announcements to the counseling office.
* Request that final transcripts get sent to your 13th grade.
* Schedule open house visits to your 13th grade, perhaps finding a future roommate.
* If taking AP courses, prepare for your exams. They save time and money later.

**Summer**

* Attend 13th grade orientation, investigating clubs and activities you can do.
* Send thank you notes to individuals who helped you along the way, including those who funded your scholarships.
* Check with your roommate to see what large items each of you should bring to the dorm (to prevent duplication).
* Pack with care knowing you can’t possibly take EVERYTHING you own.