

SENIOR HOMEROOM MEETING 9-7-2016:

Senior Folder

Items in folder:

- Graduation check list: make sure you have all the listed “courses remaining for graduation” in your schedule including any electives you may need to earn to meet the 26 credit requirement.
- Transcript: please check for accuracy. Look for GPA errors, missing honors/AP courses, missing NCVPS or any other Dual Enrollment credits. Also let us know if the same course/class appears twice on transcript.
- Parent Release form for Transcripts: Please know that we must have a parent release on file to send an official transcript from our office. This does not include transcripts sent via CFNC or Common App.
- Senior tip sheet: has useful information for your senior year including important dates such as graduation.
- College Comparison Chart: A resource to guide you as you determine your intended colleges/universities. Please be mindful that this has not been updated with the new SAT correlation information; we hope to have that information soon.
- Math substitution form: If you are using an alternate path to obtain your math credits, please be sure a signed math substitution form on file.

Transcript Information

- Official transcripts will be available after September 26th. Until that time, rank/GPA are not official, so please do not send last year’s information or the information you see on the **unofficial** transcript you received today. Please spend time carefully reviewing your transcript for errors as this could impact your rank and/or GPA. **All corrected transcripts are due by Wednesday, September 14th.**
- If you are a student with an **approved** “hole” in your schedule, you will see place holder classes for those periods. Those courses will be dropped by the data manager in September 12th so that they will not appear on your official transcript. If you are currently enrolled in an online class for this semester, those courses will also be added at that time so that they will appear on the official transcript provided to colleges. Online courses for the spring will not be added to your transcript until February 2017 after the ten-day drop/add period.

- During your homeroom on September 28th, you will receive a copy of your **official** transcript so that you will have your official rank/GPA to use for college applications. Please be sure to hold onto this copy as some colleges/scholarships will ask that you scan and upload this copy as an unofficial copy of your transcript.
- Please visit the AHS website, click on the Student Services tab (then click the “Transcripts” tab) and you will be able to view links on how to request transcripts as well as videos on the Transcript Request Process, the College Application Process and Completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
- If applying to a NC college/university through CFNC, transcripts will be sent electronically – you will use the “Transcript Manager” to send your transcript AFTER September 26th. Counselors will also send electronic transcripts for the Common App and Send Edu application programs.
- If you are applying to an out-of-state school, you must stop by student services to request (using the release form included in this folder) that an official transcript is mailed to that college or university. Please know that the first three official transcripts are free, and are then \$5 each after.
- SAT and ACT scores are not included on your transcript. **You must send your test scores directly to your chosen college or university via the College Board or ACT website.** If a student has earned AP Exam credit, those scores must be sent by the student via College Board once the student has accepted an offer of admission to a college or university.

Scholarships

Please visit the AHS website, click on the Student Services tab and then click on “Scholarships”. Information we receive from scholarship organizations will be posted as we receive them. Under this tab, you will also find information for various scholarship sites you may research on your own to locate scholarships for which you qualify. Many scholarship opportunities become available in the spring of senior year. Scholarship opportunities will also be posted on the AHS website (primarily in the spring), so please be sure to check often.

Scheduling notes

- The last day to change schedules is Friday, September 9th and this should only be for level changes OR students missing a course required for graduation or required for admission to prospective colleges.
- Please know that if you make **ANY** changes to your schedule (for both fall and spring as both appear on your transcript) after sending your transcript, **you must contact your prospective colleges** to alert them of the change. Changes in your coursework, including holes, could cause your admission to be rescinded (along with a drop in your grades!), so please be sure to get approval from your schools, in writing, prior to making any schedule changes after September 23, 2016.

College Application process

- There are three ways to apply to colleges: (1) CFNC for any colleges/universities within North Carolina (2) Common App which is used by 12 NC colleges and is primarily used for out-of-state and private schools. The benefit to using CFNC and Common App is that you only have to complete the application once and it is sent to all of the colleges you selected. (3) Through the college's website or portal.
- Be mindful of application deadlines – you can find a list of all NC college deadlines on the CFNC website. Early Decision deadlines are fast approaching and usually have a date of early- to mid-October.
- If colleges require a recommendation, it will be noted on their website or on CFNC and Common App as you work on your application.
- Teacher/Counselor recommendations: give 10 day turn around. Counselors require a typed Brag Sheet. Some parents have asked if they are able to share a paragraph of two of information they would like to be included my letter to colleges. This is fine (and there is a page for this with this year's Brag Sheet) and can be helpful if I have not had the opportunity to get to know you very well.
- College Reps: For those of you still exploring potential colleges please know that reps from some local and out-of-state colleges will be coming in to speak with prospective students (look on the included Senior Tips sheet for some upcoming dates – note 12 NEW colleges have been added since the printing of the Tip sheet last week). The complete list can be found on the AHS website under College Visits. Check frequently as colleges/dates are added **often**.
- College Awareness Week: takes place November 14th-18th. This is another opportunity to learn about colleges through planned activities here at AHS. During this week, some colleges/universities will waive application fees – we will have a list of those schools soon. Also during this week, students interested in Wake Tech will have an opportunity to attend an information meeting here at AHS.
- The Wake County College Fair will be held on Sunday, September 18th, 2-4:30, at NC State University McKimmon Center.

Senior Parent Night

Senior Parent Night is Wednesday, September 14th at 5:30 pm prior to the 6:30 pm Open House. Parents will be provided with the same information shared with you today. In addition, they will hear about Wake Tech as a post-secondary option and the possibility of earning free credits at Wake Tech spring 2017 via the Career and College Promise program (see Jackson Hayes, room 240, for more info!).

Graduation

Graduation Rehearsal will take place on Wednesday, June 7th at 6:00 pm at the Convention Center in Raleigh. Please be sure that you add this date to your calendar (and plan ahead to take off work if needed) as you will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony if you did not attend graduation rehearsal. The approved graduation date has been set as Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 8:00 am.

Financial Assistance

- We will hold a Financial Aid Night this fall on September 22nd at 6:30 pm.
- **Important note:** Typically families would not complete the FAFSA until January of senior year. This year, the FAFSA application will open on October 1, 2016 for CURRENT seniors.
- Our Financial Aid advisor, Bonnie Sykes, will be available on Wednesdays beginning September 14th. You may make an appointment to meet with the advisor by visiting the Student Services front desk.
- You may find information regarding scholarship opportunities by visiting the AHS Student Services website and clicking on the tab marked Scholarships.
- FAFSA Day will be held on October 29th. This is an excellent opportunity for you and your parents to get help completing the FAFSA – the free application for financial aid for colleges/universities. There will be various sites holding this activity, please check the CFNC.org website for more information.

NCAA

Please be sure that if you plan to play a sport in college, you have registered with NCAA.

Seniors, this should all be refresher information from your junior conference last year, but if you still have question, please stop by Student Services to see me.