

LYONS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CHECKLIST 2011-2012

____ Meet with high school counselor early in the fall semester to discuss college plans (**see reverse side for college planning tools/ websites**).

____ Complete your resume Aug./Sept. (Counseling Office needs this on file to help advise students and for scholarship purposes). You will also give this resume to those writing recommendations so they can make sure you are represented accurately in their letter.

____ Attend college fairs and/or meet with college admissions representatives who visit your high school.

Future Fair College & Financial Aid sessions: Wed., 9/28, 4-7 Skyline High School

Saturday College Fair & Workshops: Sat., 10/15, 10:00-2:00 Douglas County HS, Castle Rock

Out of State College Nights: Wed, 10/12, 6:30-8:30 Monarch HS or Thur, 10/13, 6:30-8:30 Kennedy HS

St. Vrain Valley School District College Fair: Thurs, 10/27, 6:30-8:00 @ Skyline High School

____ Narrow college choices/ obtain applications/ determine admission requirements and deadlines for colleges you want to attend. For a college comparison checklist go to

<http://www.act.org/path/parent/college/collegecomparison.html>

____ Make a rough draft of your college entrance essay(s) & have a teacher or counselor review it early fall. Write your final draft of your essay in the early fall.

____ Ask for letters of recommendation. Have a balance of academic teacher recommendations & from others who know you well through work, activities, athletics, etc. Give your resume to those completing recommendations & give them at least 2 weeks to complete a letter for you. Send them a thank you note ☺

____ Take or retake the **ACT** or **SAT** exam in Sept/ Oct if needed & forward your scores to the colleges to which you plan to apply. See reverse for websites. **060955** is Lyons High School code.

____ When sending college application & supporting documentation (e.g. downloaded forms, high school transcripts, letters of recommendation, essays, etc.) bring them to Kathy Slauson, Registrar, in the Counseling Office. First transcript for college application is free (transcripts for scholarships are free too). For additional college official transcript requests the cost is \$2.00 per copy.

NOTE: Please submit transcript requests and other documentation colleges may need to Ms. Slauson by December 2nd if you want your information to be mailed before the end of the fall semester. Be sure to check individual college deadlines since some may need to be done earlier.

____ Keep copies of everything you send to colleges or scholarship committees as a back up.

____ If you haven't done so, be sure to visit colleges you are applying to.

____ Apply for all possible scholarships and **MEET DEADLINES !!!** (internet, monthly scholarships, St. Vrain Local Scholarships, Lyons scholarships, any you see out in the community or through your parents' employment, and the financial aid offices at the colleges where you are applying.

<http://counseling.stvrain.k12.co.us/> click on scholarships tab. Write thank you cards to the donors for any scholarships you received.

____ Student Athletes: If you plan on attending and playing at a Division 1 or Division 2 school, register with the NCAA Clearinghouse at www.eligibilitycenter.org. **NOTE:** Make sure you have 16 core courses approved by the NCAA before graduating high school if you plan to play at the Division 1 level.

____ Check out the College In Colorado website to apply for the College Opportunity Fund, take an interest inventory, check out colleges, plan your career, and learn about financial aid (www.collegeincolorado.org).

____ Obtain FAFSA PIN by December and apply online for need-based financial aid as soon after January 1st as possible at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The FAFSA is the financial aid form used at all universities/colleges and is the only way to get grants/work study/some loans, etc.

____ Attend a Financial Aid Night **Future Fair College & Financial Aid sessions:** Wed., 9/28, 4-7 Skyline HS

____ Notify the school (s) you have applied to no later than May 1st with your decision. Send acceptance letter and any necessary documents and deposits to your college of choice. Write polite letter of refusal to schools you were admitted to but won't attend.

____ Notify Ms. Slauson when she visits your classes in late April of any scholarships received and your post-secondary plans so she will know where to send your final transcript.

Great Websites to Help Prepare and Plan for College/Career

College/Scholarship/Career Search/ Test Prep/ Financial Aid

www.collegeincolorado.org

www.mystudentedge.com (Access code for Lyons High School: WYNLCXPU)

www.actstudent.org

www.collegeboard.com

www.going2college.org

www.college.gov

www.schoolsoup.com

www.zinch.com

www.xap.com

College Search (to find the right college to fit you)

www.collegeincolorado.org

www.wiche.edu (Western Undergraduate Exchange Program- out of state reduced tuition rates)

www.anycollege.com (college: search, videos, scholarship)

www.cappex.com (college: recruit, scholarship, chances of admission)

www.mycollegeoptions.org (college: search, scholarships, advice, researching majors/careers)

www.questbridge.org (college matching for low income high achieving students)

www.campustours.com & www.Ecampustours.com (virtual tours, interactive campus maps)

www.mymajors.com (college: major/career quiz, information, planning)

www.commonapp.org (single point application process for participating colleges)

www.collegeanswer.com (college: preparing, selecting, applying, paying, deciding)

Financial Aid/Scholarship (to help pay for college)

www.fafsa.ed.gov (Free Application for Fed. Student Financial Aid- apply after Jan. 1st) use this exact address as there are other scam sites out there!

www.collegeincolorado.org (College Opportunity Fund)

www.stvrain.k12.co.us (Academics & Program tab select Counseling)

www.collegeinvest.org

www.finaid.org (estimated family contribution)

www.salliemae.com (step by step financial aid application & loans)

www.fastweb.com (also job search and military options)

www.fastaid.com

www.tuitionfundingsources.com

www.meritaid.com (merit based scholarships)

www.gmsp.org (Gates Millennium Scholars)

www.latinocollegedollars.org (scholarships for Latino students)

www.guidetofreeeducation.com

http://roybal-allard.house.gov/UploadedFiles/2008_Scholarship_Guide.pdf (lots of information)

Test Prep (free help for ACT/SAT test preparation)

www.actstudent.org (ACT)

www.collegeboard.com (SAT/Advanced Placement/PSAT)

www.number2.com

www.princetonreview.com

Student Athletes - NCAA Clearinghouse

www.eligibilitycenter.org (for student athletes attending a Division 1 or Division 2 college)