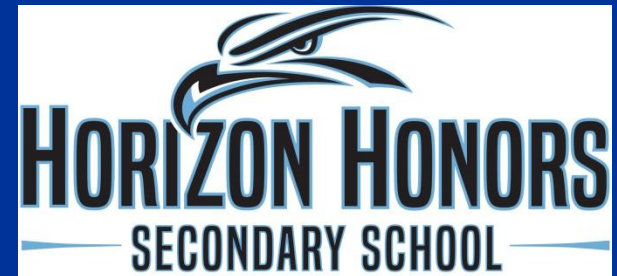


# Senior Year Graduation and Beyond HS



Welcome to Senior  
Year.





# Senior Year Reflections

- Senior Year is not an ending, it is preparing for a new beginning.
- Whether your child is joining the work force, the military or going to a university, senior year is an opportunity to prepare for what is next.
- It is also a time of major transitions as your child moves from a teenager to an adult.



# Tips for Senior Families

Possible behaviors your senior may demonstrate:

- Senioritis
- Disengagement and/or hyper attachment with family and peers
- Stress, Confusion, Excitement

Family Tip: Participate in their lives, but don't take over tasks when they struggle.



# Senior Happenings

- 44 Weeks
- 24 Required Credits
- Just 4-8 High School Course Left!
- 1 Homecoming, Prom and Grad Night.
- **Infinite Memories to Be Made!**



# College and Career Center

- Located in the Media Center
- Utilize the CCC for:
  - Asking questions--Mrs. Collins & Mrs. Wallace
  - Applying/Researching college
  - Researching scholarships
  - Getting help with stressful situations



# Information

## Needed Credits for Graduation:

4 English, 4 Math, 3 Science, 3 Social Studies, 2 Foreign Language, 1 PE, 1 Fine Art, 6 Electives.

## GPA

Horizon Calculates a weighted 5.0 GPA, where rank is calculated, and an unweighted 4.0 GPA. Most colleges look at the 4.0 GPA although the rank does factor in for scholarships and admissions. Class rank is set after graduation.

## Graduation Honor Cords:

Community service: Performing 40 hours of CS yearly = blue cord.  
3.5 unweighted GPA = silver cord.

## College Sports:

If you are planning on playing a sport in college you will need to register with either the NCAA Clearinghouse or the NAIA. Both clear your high school classes in order to meet requirements to play a sport.



# Senior Timeline/Milestones

## What to Do

College Entrance Testing

College Research

College Applications

College Visits and Fairs

Scholarships

Acceptance or Denial Notifications

Financial Aid-FAFSA

Compare College Offers and Decide

Apply for Residence Halls and Food Plans

Study hard and Graduate

Request final transcript to go to the College  
via Parchment.com

## When

11<sup>th</sup> Spring (Best) or 12<sup>th</sup> Fall

Now-Pick schools that are interesting to you.  
Learn about Deadlines for Applications.

Start Early-Scholarships more likely if you  
apply way before deadlines

Ongoing

Apply before deadlines.

Usually 6-10 weeks after app submission

Available October of senior year

By May 1<sup>st</sup> or sooner

March-May

Semester 2

May through the first week in June



# How to Obtain Information

- Pay close attention to the Horizon E-blasts.
  - E-blast will announce: College information, recruiter visits, college fairs, college entrance testing dates, honor rolls, scholarships.
- College and Career Website
  - <http://www.horizonhonorssecondary.org/ccc>





# College Visits and Fairs

College Visits-Go check it out in person!

Go to College Webpages.

College Fairs: Open houses to talk with college reps:

## Tempe Public Library

- Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at the library from 6-7 pm

## Horizon College Fair

- Wednesday, Sept. 13 in Horizon's MPR from 5:30pm – 7:30pm

## National College-Greater Phx Performing Visual Arts Fair

- Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at Scotts Performing Arts Center 7pm-9pm

## National College Fair (NACAC)

- Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at Phoenix Convention Center from 11am - 3pm



# College Entrance Exams

Register for required tests, it is your last chance to take the SAT, SAT Subject or ACT.

- You will need this test for university entrance requirements.
- You do not need this for community college admissions, although if you transfer after your AA degree, or at any point to a university, you may have to take the test.
- It is a good idea to take it. Many scholarships are based on college testing scores.
- SAT [www.collegeboard.org/register](http://www.collegeboard.org/register)
- ACT [www.actstudent.org/start](http://www.actstudent.org/start)



# University Resumé and Portfolio

- When applying to college, make sure to have your portfolio on hand as a reference. Include community service.
- Map out your accomplishments on a one-sheet resumé for potential colleges to see at a glance. Send it in with your application, especially if there is no application essay.
- Include a cover letter to your resumé introducing yourself.
  - Personalize your cover letter to each college/scholarship agency.
  - It is a good idea to research the admissions representative assigned to your file.



# College Admissions

- Any college you are interested in attending, go to the college admissions webpage and apply.
- Utilize AZCIS to refine your college preference list based on personality tests.
- Dream Schools vs. Safe Choices



# Letters of Recommendation

- How?
  - Ask people who **know** you well.
  - ASK IN PERSON, not through the Common Application.
  - Fill out & Share Student Information Form-CCC
  - Keep original; provide copy to letter writer
  - Allow **2-3 weeks** notice minimum.
  - Be sure to write a handwritten thank you note!
- Who?
  - Teachers, Counselor, Faith Community, Community Service Sponsor, Friend, Employer



# College Admissions

- Any college you are interested in attending, go to the college admissions webpage and apply.
- Utilize AZCIS to refine your college preference list based on personality tests.
- College Admissions Dates vary by school



# College Terminology

- FERPA
- Disaggregated GPA
- Early Action, Early Decision, Binding Decision.
- Rolling Admissions
- FAFSA



# College/Scholarship Essays

- Most applications require a college essay.
- You can find resources to help you write an essay through the College and Career Center or your teachers.
- Most colleges report that they like to hear about what makes you an individual.





# College/Scholarship Applications

- Transcripts
  - Horizon, order through Parchment at [parchment.com](https://parchment.com).
  - Dual Enrollment/Concurrent Enrollment
    - Any college agency that holds the credits
      - SMCC, Trine Univ., Rio
  - Don't forget to order final transcripts to be sent after graduation through Parchment.
  - Transcript includes weighted and unweighted GPA, class rank, community service and all high school courses and credits.
- Test Scores
  - SAT, ACT, AP and sometimes PSAT
    - Needs to be sent directly from the provider agency.



# College Scholarships and Money

- The first round of scholarships are generally merit based. They are given from a combination of ACT/SAT test scores, grades in challenging classes and class rank.
- Additional scholarships can be found on each college's scholarship webpage, search engines or private donor sources.
- Be sure to fill out the FASFA in October for all funding opportunities.



# Next Steps

- Decide which college you want to attend.
  - Look at the big picture of your college aspirations and what you can afford.
- Attend college orientation.
- Apply for housing and food plans.
- Verify college financial aid before making budget college decisions.
- Stay focused on grades. Senior semester 2 grades count!