



Class of 2024

Senior Newsletter

September, 2023

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Welcome to the start of the 2023-24 school year! Your senior year is one of the most exciting and stressful times in high school. This is a big year for each and every one of you as you balance schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and the college application process. Our goal as a Guidance Staff is to work with each senior to help him/her through the process of determining the best route for life after high school.

For those students planning to attend college after high school, our most important advice is to stay on track with the college admissions process. Get organized, be aware of deadlines and do not procrastinate! The college application and financial aid process is filled with a lot of details and paperwork. It is very important that you involve your parents in this process.

Senior Newsletters will be distributed quarterly. This newsletter contains a lot of information to help you navigate through the first semester of your senior year:

- Advice for Parents
- First Semester Senior Calendar
- Senior Year Planning
- XHS college application/transcript process
- "Life After High School"

-Things to consider when choosing a college

-Things to consider when looking for a job/career

-Things to consider when looking at a military career

- ACT/SAT Information
- Helpful Websites for College Planning and Financial Aid

Advice For Parents:

There are many things you can do to help your Senior prepare for continuing their education after high school.

- Sit down with your student and prepare a list of what he/she is looking for in a college and help him/her sort through the information they receive from different institutions to decide which ones offer what's on their list.
- Complete Applications with your student.
- Ask them monthly, "what are you working on and what scholarships have you applied for?"
- Go on college visits with your student. A visit to a college campus is invaluable for making a decision.
- Attend Senior Parent Night Meeting (Sept. 21 @ 6:00)
- Complete the FAFSA application online
- Create an FSA ID on FAFSA's website for you and your Senior.
- In March, the award notices will start coming in. Look at the financing carefully and contact the schools with any questions

Senior Calendar

SEPTEMBER 14	Senior Sessions @ XHS
SEPTEMBER 15	Senior Sessions @ GCCC
SEPTEMBER 21	XHS Senior Class Meeting for Graduation Products – 8:26 a.m.
SEPTEMBER 21	Josten's GCCC/1:30 – 2:00 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 21	Senior Parent Planning Night – 6:00 p.m. – XHS Auditorium
SEPTEMBER 21	Parent/Teacher Conferences - 4:00 - 7:30 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 22	Last Day to Register for October ACT
SEPTEMBER 29	Josten's Grad Order - Lunch/XHS and GCCC
OCTOBER 6	Cap & Gown Order - Deadline (\$53+tax Cap & Gown only)
OCTOBER 6	Late Registration Deadline for October ACT
OCTOBER 12	End of First Nine Weeks
OCTOBER 19	Report Card Fair - 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
OCTOBER 22	ACT TEST @ XHS at 8:00 a.m.
OCTOBER 23	ACT TEST @ XHS at 8:00 a.m.
OCTOBER 31	College applications submitted for first consideration.
NOVEMBER 20-24	Thanksgiving Vacation – No School
NOVEMBER 30	Senior Session @ XHS
DECEMBER 1	Senior Sessions @ GCCC
DECEMBER 9	ACT TEST @ XHS – 8:00 a.m.
DECEMBER 22	END OF 1ST SEMESTER
DEC 23 - JAN 9	WINTER BREAK

Planning Ahead: Timeline for a Successful Senior Year

Fall: Plan Wisely for Application Season

- Track Deadlines for application submissions
- If required for admission or scholarship applications, request recommendations from teachers, employers, and/or guidance counselors, and begin writing rough drafts of essays
- Attend college fairs and schedule college visits
- Meet with your counselor to stay on track of admission requirements
- Complete applications and let the Guidance office know where you are applying so transcripts can be sent
- Register for the ACT/SAT if necessary
- Start working on scholarship searches and applications
- Stay on track with your grades and extracurricular activities

Winter: Finalize Admission and Scholarship Applications

- Keep track of deadlines (cannot stress this enough!!)
- Complete all applications
- Continue with scholarship search
- Complete FAFSA online to determine financial aid eligibility. (Have your parents gather their IRS tax returns – they will be needed on the FAFSA)
- Stay on track with your grades and extracurricular activities

Spring: “The Home Stretch”

- Follow up on your college applications
- Watch mail and e-mail for college decisions
- Review colleges acceptances and compare financial aid offers
- Make your final college decision (May 1 is the last day to notify many schools of your intent to attend)
- Prepare for End of the Year exams
- Graduate Strong!

Xenia High School Application/Transcript Process

Important Information to help you complete applications:**School:** Xenia High School**Address:** 303 Kinsey Road
Xenia, Ohio 45385**Telephone:** 937-372-6983**Guidance Fax Number:** 937-352-4450**School CEEB/Code Number:** 365-682**XHS ACT Test Center Code:** 183070**Senior Class Size:** 256 (based on August 2023)**Graduation Date:** May 22, 2024

Xenia High School College Application Procedure:

College application deadlines are early!! College applications should be submitted by October 31, 2023. We encourage you to get busy filling out applications to the college(s) or the university (ies) of your choice! In addition to your application, colleges and universities will need a copy of our high school transcript. The transcript should be sent after you have applied to the college or university.

Most college applications should be completed online. Some select schools accept the common app application. Miami University, University of Cincinnati and Ohio State University are only using the common app application. It is available online at www.commonapp.org.

Once you have submitted your application, please follow the steps listed below to ensure all of the correct paperwork is submitted in order to complete your college application:

Step 1: Complete your college application online**Step 2:** Request that a copy of your transcript be sent to the colleges you are applying to.**Step 3:** If your application requires a teacher recommendation, please contact the teacher first and ask him/her if they would be willing to write you a letter of recommendation and give them plenty of time to write it. It is appropriate to provide the teacher a stamped, addressed envelope to mail the letter of recommendation.

Step 4: Please make sure to notify your counselor of all college acceptances and scholarships you receive. Bring these letters to the Guidance Office and a copy will be made for our files. College acceptances will be printed in the February Senior Newsletter.

Life After High School:

It may not seem like it, but your senior year is going to go by very quickly! We hope that you have been able to come up with a plan for “Life after high school”. Many of you are planning on going to college in the fall of 2024. Some of you plan to finish school and join the workforce after graduation, and a few will be going to the military to serve our country after graduation.

Here are some things to consider as you decide on what you want to do after graduation:

HOW DO I CHOOSE A COLLEGE? There are hundreds of colleges and universities throughout the United States. Narrowing your choices down to one can be difficult. If you are trying to select a college or university, following are some factors you will want to consider:

SIZE: Enrollments can vary from 100 to over 50,000. What size would be best for you?

TYPE: Is the college co-educational or for only males or females? Is it primarily a liberal arts college or is it a specialized school? Is it state supported or is it a private/religious affiliated school?

LOCATION: Does it have a country or city atmosphere? Is it one to which you could commute or would you have to live on campus? How far is it from home?

STANDING: Is it fully accredited? What type of faculty does it have? What is the ratio of faculty to students? Does it offer the program you want?

EXTRA-CURRICULAR: Does it have the activities in which you are interested?

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS: Are they comparable to your past achievements?

COST AND AID: What is the cost of the college versus the amount of aid or work opportunities they typically provide? How much financial help will be available from your family? (Note: Some out-of-state schools are less expensive than in-state schools.) **DO NOT RELY ON THE STICKER PRICE!**

TRANSFER OF CREDITS: Many students plan to attend a 2-year school with the idea of transferring to a 4-year school. Be sure to check to see if courses will apply to your intended degree. The site www.transferology.com will allow students to compare courses for three schools at a time.

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING ON A JOB OR CAREER:

YOUR INTERESTS: Do you enjoy helping people, working with your hands, working with information and numbers, creating, designing, being outdoors? Identify your possibilities. One of the most important factors in career satisfaction is liking what you do.

SALARY: What salary can you expect to make in your chosen field? After two or three years of experience? After ten years? Talk with employers; get realistic estimates on what the return on your investment will be.

ADVANCEMENT: Is your career open-ended? Where will it lead you? Will it offer the opportunity to eventually start your own business if that is your goal? Are there more trained people than there are jobs in your career? Choose a career with a good future, and make sure you won't become obsolete in a few years.

JOB MOBILITY: Where are the jobs in your career specialty? Are they available in your area, or would you be required to relocate or travel? For example, commercial drivers usually have to relocate. Computer programmers often work in large or medium-sized cities. Medical workers are usually found everywhere.

WORKING CONDITIONS: Find out what your working conditions will be. Don't be unpleasantly surprised on the job. Before you make up your mind about a career, get all the facts.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS: Nearly every good job today requires specialized training beyond high school. Find out what kind of training is required for your career.

SKILLS: Employers can teach skills specific to a job. They are looking for people with the following abilities:

1. Good written and verbal communication skills
2. Dependability – able to complete a task without supervision
3. Attendance – will show up on time every day

MILITARY CAREERS

Local military recruiters will be contacting you to see if you are interested in joining the military after graduation. If you can schedule a time to meet with them after school, it will be greatly appreciated. Should you need to see them during the school day, the following procedure must be followed:

1. A parent note is required, if you are under 18 years of age, giving permission to see the recruiter.
2. Visits may occur only during study hall or lunch

OHIO PUBLIC COLLEGE COMPARISON

OPUAC.org

OHIO PRIVATE COLLEGE COMPARISON

aicuo.EDU



Paying For College

For most seniors planning on attending college, the admission process is finished. The next big step is to apply for financial aid. In order to be considered for financial aid, students and parents must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is the federal form that the U.S. Department of Education uses to determine how much federal student aid you qualify for. The FAFSA must be completed online at www.fafsa.gov.

Steps for Applying for Federal Aid

- _____ Step 1 *Collect documents needed to complete the FAFSA*
 - *Income Tax returns (2022)*
 - *Other records of Income*
 - *A complete listing of what you need is available at www.fafsa.gov*
- _____ Step 2 *Complete the FAFSA between Dec. and June 30 (The sooner you complete the FAFSA, the sooner you will be notified of your financial aid package!)*
- _____ Step 3 *You will receive award letters from each college that received your FAFSA information. The award letters will tell you how much financial aid the college is able to offer you. Financial aid awards are usually a combination of grants, Scholarships, loans and/or work-study.*

College Prep Night

The annual College Prep Night presented by Day Air Credit Union, is being held at Day Air Ballpark - home of the Dayton Dragons. Local high school students can attend this FREE event and chat with over 70 colleges/universities from all over the country. Students must pre-register and attend this event to have the chance to win one of the two, \$1,000 scholarships provided by Day Air Credit Union, although they do not have to be present to win. Students can now officially register for this event at:

www.daytondragons.com/collegeprep

Wednesday, September 27, 2023 (6PM - 8PM)

Helpful Websites for College and Financial Planning

ACT: www.act.org

- Site where students can register for the ACT test.

The College Board: www.collegeboard.org

- Site where students can register for the SAT test, as well as search for colleges.

Ohio Board of Regents:

www.regents.ohio.gov/collegesuniversities.php

- Information on colleges in Ohio as well as scholarships and financial aid is found here.

Peterson's Online: www.petersons.com

- A collection of useful information on the College search, financial aid and test prep processes.

College is Possible: www.collegeispossible.org

- Preparing for, selecting and paying for college is covered here.

College Planning Website: www.collegeplan.org

- Provides information on college selection, admission, financial aid and scholarships.

FastWeb: www.fastweb.com

- A resource for students researching scholarship assistance.

Colleges and Careers: www.collegesandcareers.com

- A resource for students researching scholarship and grant assistance.

College Vine

<https://www.collegevine.com/>

CollegeVine connects you to advisors, current college students, peers, and admissions offices – so you can get to where you want to go.

Going Merry <https://www.goingmerry.com/>

- * Alleviate some pressure and equip qualified students to attend college without having to worry so much about the cost.

Mapping Your Future: <http://mappingyourfuture.org/>

- Provides information on planning a career, selecting and paying for school.

National Association of Student Financial Aid

Administrators: www.nasfaa.org

- Learn about financing your education.

Financial Aid for Students — U.S. Department of Education:

<http://www.ed.gov/fund/grants-college.html>

- Provides college financial planning information.

Sallie Mae: www.salliemae.com

- Planning for college, applying for financial aid and loans is covered here.

The Financial Aid Information Page: www.finaid.org

- The SmartStudent™ Guide to financial aid.

My College Options: www.mycollegeoptions.org

- A free college planning service, offering assistance to students, parents, high schools, counselors, and teachers nationwide.

College View: www.collegeview.com

- Provides information on selecting and paying for school, majors, campus life, etc.

XENIA HIGH SCHOOL – TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM

Official transcripts include: Grades throughout high school, OGT Scores, unofficial ACT/SAT Scores.
(Please include \$1.00 per transcript requested with this form.)

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____ **Year of Graduation:** _____
(Please Print) (Please Print)

Student ID Number: _____

College: _____ **College:** _____ **College:** _____

I have submitted the Online application	YES	NO
I have attached the Counselor Form to be completed.	YES	

I have submitted the Online application	YES	NO
I have attached the Counselor Form to be completed.	YES	

I have submitted the Online application	YES	NO
I have attached the Counselor Form to be completed.	YES	

☐ I authorize the release of my high school transcript to be sent to the above college(s).

☐ I will pick up my transcripts from the Guidance Office.

Student Signature: _____

For official use only: RECEIVED BY: _____	DATE MAILED: _____	AMOUNT PAID: \$ _____
DATE: _____	PICKED UP: _____	

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