



Talawanda High School

College & Career Timeline



FRESHMEN: Welcome to Talawanda High School!

- Review your schedule and HS Graduation Plan – is everything aligned and correct?
- What is your goal: Standard; Honors; Technical Honors? Know the requirements/benefits
 - Additional credits needed
 - May lead to more money for college
- Every credit counts! Earn the highest grades you can in ALL of your classes!
- Take care of your required courses early – completing a PE Waiver? Get the paperwork!
- Play a sport or join a club/activity
- Most colleges REQUIRE two years of a world language and recommend three – get enrolled in one today!

SOPHOMORES:

- Review your schedule & Graduation Plan – are you on track? Thinking about Honors?
- Continue your involvement in extra-curricular activities!
- Be ready for the October PSAT – Sophomores can take this exam
 - Great college readiness resources result
 - AP Potential report – what AP classes would be a good fit for you?
- Earn the highest grades you can – remember – every credit counts!
- Be sure to speak to the college admissions counselors that come to THS!
- Have you taken College Credit Plus (CCP) course yet?

JUNIORS: FALL

- Continue to polish your transcript!
- Sharpen your skills! What makes you stand out? Positively distinguish yourself this year
- If you are interested in a branch of the Armed Services – start the enlistment process
- Visit with as many college reps at THS as you can!
- Attend a local College Fair
- Prepare for and take the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)

WINTER

- Start to narrow your college search – 15-20 schools is an appropriate number at this time
- Weigh the following: Cost; Size; Selectivity; Majors offered; Athletics; Location
- Attend the THS Financial Aid and Scholarship Events – with your parents/guardians
- Register for the Winter/Spring SAT and ACT tests – start studying!

SPRING

- Wrap up your courses strong – Finals can make or break your GPA
- Register for and take the SAT and ACT's again – use your first experience as a study guide
- Narrow your college listing. Remember: Safety (2); Good fit (3-6); and Stretch (2-3)
- Create a savings plan with your summer job money to help offset college expenses

SENIORS: SUMMER

- Visit as many of your top colleges as you can
 - Make it official – be sure to meet with Admissions!
- Do you have solid volunteer experience yet?
 - One day or a single event isn't enough – get involved and give back!
- Get organized: Create files for your each school you plan to apply
 - Note their admissions style – rolling; early decision; early action; set deadline
 - Note their scholarship deadlines – many are November 1st
 - Note their selectivity – do you have the GPA – SAT or ACT scores needed to get it?

FALL

- Review your schedule and HS Graduation Plan – the end is in sight
- Don't cruise! Colleges will question "easy schedules" & poor academics – FINISH STRONG!
- Any 18 year male will register for the selective service in order to qualify for aid
- Finalize your list of schools – APPLY – Hit your admission deadlines!
- Early decision? Early action? Scholarship cut-offs? Hit your Deadlines!
- Have an adult (English teacher) proofread your essay
- CommonApp vs. Regular application – see your school counselor for advice
- Review your transcript – check for errors – be sure you have what you need
- One last SAT/ACT? There may still be time if you need to improve your marks
- Continue to visit college campuses – make it official with admissions
- Attend a local college fair
- Scholarship season starts in September – check our listing and search online
- You may need letters of recommendation – identify two individuals in addition to your counselor that are willing to write you one
- FAFSA – comes online October 1st – come to our FAFSA WORKSHOP
 - October 15th – 10:00am-7:00 pm – Free 1on1 FAFSA help

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- Finalize your admissions packets – any last schools?
- Track your acceptance letters and continue visiting to help make your decision final
- Scholarship season is now in full swing – review your options online and in guidance
- Attend the Financial Aid and Scholarship events at THS

SPRING

- Finish strong – don't let SENIORITIS get the best of you!
- Enjoy the moments safely – Prom; Graduation; etc.