



# 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.
- 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! Note that World Language is NOT needed for graduation from THS.

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!

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 in June – 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 each school you're planning to apply to.
  - Note their admissions style – rolling; early decision; early action; set deadline.
  - Note their scholarship deadlines – many are November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - 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 Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – complete by 12/1 – come to our FAFSA WORKSHOP.
  - Held annually in October – 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 any 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.