I'm a Senior....Now What?
Helpful Hints for a Successful Senior Year

- **Graduation Requirements:**
  o **26 credits** for Future Ready Core
    ▪ 4 credits of English, Math, and Social Studies
    ▪ 3 credits of Science (Biology, Earth Science, 1 Physical Science)
    ▪ 1 credit of Healthful Living
    ▪ 2 credits of any combination of CTE, Arts Education, Foreign Language*
    ▪ 8 credits of Electives
      ● *2 Foreign Language credits required for 4 year college/university admission

- **Reminders**
  o Check GLHS website every day to stay updated with scholarship information, **deadlines,** events, and college related materials.
  o Follow us on Twitter -- @GreenLevelHigh
  o Follow us on Instagram -- @greenlevelcounselors
  o Scholarship Canva Coming Soon!

- **College Visit Days**
  ○ For outside educational opportunities (college visit days are included), The Excused Absences for Educational Reasons Form must be completed in advance of the absence(s).
  ○ After the visit, you have (5) days to turn the letter into the Attendance Office in order to get credit for the visit. Please remember to put your WCPSS Student ID number on the letter once you receive it.

- **SAT/ACT**
  o Register for the ACT/SAT: **www.collegboard.com or www.actstudent.org**
  o Our school code is **340066**

- **North Carolina Public College and University Minimum Admission Standards**
The UNC Board of Governors recently adopted a time-limited policy provision that allows a student to meet minimum eligibility requirements for admissions consideration*:
  ○ Minimum 2.5 weighted high school GPA, or
  ○ Minimum ACT (19) or SAT (1010) Scores
    ○ **Although these are the minimum requirements, they do not guarantee admission.*

- **AP TESTS**
  ○ Colleges and universities throughout the world offer credit and/or placement for qualifying Advanced Placement® exam scores. Information about AP credit and placement policies at many colleges and universities is available on the College Board's website. To learn more visit **www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy/**

- **Applying to Colleges**
  o **Use the College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) Application or Common App, depending on the school**: https://www.cfnc.org/ or https://www.commonapp.org/
    ▪ Plan visits to colleges and set up interviews (if necessary)
    ▪ Check on application, housing, and financial aid deadlines for the schools to which you plan to apply. Dates may vary and it is essential to meet all deadlines!!

- **Scholarships**
  o **DEADLINES, DEADLINES, DEADLINES** ~ be aware of the deadline and obtain needed material
  o Once you receive a scholarship, whether you plan to accept it or not, bring a copy of the award letter to your counselor. You will need to fill out a scholarship award letter for documentation purposes.
  o Be aware of scams that require payment, credit card numbers or bank account info....you should **NEVER** need to supply this information

- **Letters of Recommendation**
  o Request for a letter of recommendation at least 2 weeks before the due date
  o Complete Senior Packet on the Green Level HS Website
  o Provide recommendation form, any special instructions and **a stamped, addressed business envelope** to the people writing your recommendations if you're sending it via mail.
  o Be thoughtful! **Write thank you notes** to those who write recommendations and keep them informed of your decision

- **Transcripts**
  o Complete official transcript request form online or go to the GLHS website for more information.
  o For an unofficial transcript, email our registrar, Ms. Bullins at kbullins@wcpss.net Due to the confidential nature of transcripts, we are unable to send official or unofficial documents by email. You can pick up or have the information mailed home.
    ▪ *Please plan in advance for processing time.*

- **Financial Aid**
  o FAFSA opens December 2023 of Senior year. Students will report income information from two years prior. **https://fafsa.ed.gov/**
  o Some colleges require the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. A list of these colleges is online at https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/index.jsp. Fill out the PROFILE only if your targeted colleges require it; unlike the FAFSA, there is a fee.

Application Process

STEP 1: Take the SAT/ACT and **have results sent to the colleges** you are considering attending.
- This can be done for **FREE when you register** for ACT/SAT or you can order them for a FEE at a later date by going online or mailing in a paper form with payment.
- SAT/AP/TSI: www.collegeboard.com
- ACT: www.actstudent.org

STEP 2: Complete your college applications – if the application is available online, colleges prefer that you submit electronically.
- CFNC Application: www.cfnc.org for colleges and universities in NC.
- Common Application: http://app.commonapp.org/
- Coalition Application: https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/
- HBCUs - Common Black College Application https://commonblackcollegeapp.com
- 58 members
- allows students to submit a single application to all of our Participating Member Institutions for $20, interact with school counselors, learn about HBCUs, and more to further your college preparation experience.
- Most colleges have applications on their website if they are not included on either of the two common applications.
- **Pay the application fee to each college for which you are applying.**
  - Fee waivers are available if you received a fee waiver for the SAT/ACT. Fee Waivers are emailed to the address on your collegeboard.org account
- Write and submit essay/s for each college that requires them.
- Be aware that on-campus housing (dorms) may have a separate fee, application, and deadline.
- Scholarships may have earlier deadlines. Check with each college to which you apply.
- WATCH OUT FOR APPLICATION DEADLINES AND ALLOW TIME TO GET ALL REQUIRED ITEMS IN BY THE DUE DATE…THE APPLICATION IS ONLY ONE PART OF THE COMPLETED FILE!

Step 2B: Complete the Residency Determination Service (RDS)
- verifies residency for in-state tuition
- can use CFNC log in

STEP 3: Send a transcript through CommonApp, CFNC, or SCRIBOnline for each college to which you have applied**.**
- **NOTE:** SAT/ACT/AP scores are **NOT** on your high school transcript. If a college informs you that they need your official scores, see Step 1 above.

STEP 4: If you need letters of recommendation from teachers, arrange that directly with them.
- See link and suggestions above under Letter of Recommendation

STEP 5: Stay on top of things!
- Check your admissions file status online or call an admission counselor to verify that your file is complete.
- If something is missing, and adequate time has passed for it to arrive, you may need to re-submit it.
- If you wait until the last minute and find out something is missing, there won't be time for the college to process the new information!

- **WCPSS Financial Aid and Scholarships**
  - https://www.wcpss.net/FinancialAid
  - Wake County Scholarship Guide: http://www.scholarshipplus.com/wake/
- **Planning for College-**
  - College Board ~ http://www.collegeboard.com/student/plan/
  - Peterson's College Admission Calendar ~ www.petersons.com
  - http://www.educationplanner.com/education_planner/default.asp?sponsor=2859
  - Student Guide ~ http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/StudentGuide.pdf
  - Student Guide (Spanish) ~ http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/spanish/StudentGuideSp.pdf
  - Sallie Mae ~ http://www.salliemae.com/
  - Adventures in Education ~ http://www.aie.org/
- **College Directories**
  - US Universities, Alphabetically ~ http://www.utexas.edu/world/univ/alpha/
  - US Universities, by State ~ http://www.utexas.edu/world/univ/state/
  - Distance learning & On-Campus learning ~ http://www.universities.com/
  - Interactive College Tours ~ http://www.campustours.com/
  - Community College Web ~ http://www.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/cc/index.html
  - US News and World Report Rankings: http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges
- **Admissions Tests & Reviews**
  - College Board Online (SAT) ~ www.collegeboard.com
  - Khan Academy: www.khanacademy.org
  - Kaplan ~ http://www.kaptest.com/
  - Princeton Review ~ http://www.princetonreview.com/home.asp
  - ACT Home Page ~ www.act.org
  - Vocabulary.com ~ www.vocabulary.com
- **Financial Aid**
  - FAFSA online ~ www.fafsa.ed.gov (mandatory for all colleges)
  - WCPSS Financial Aid: https://www.wcpss.net/FinancialAid
  - Merit Aide free ebook ~ http://www.meritaid.com/media/20InsiderStrategies.pdf
  - Direct Loan Program ~ http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/Direct.Loan/index.html
  - The Financial Aid Information Page ~ http://www.finaid.org/
- **Scholarships and Private Aid**
  - GLHS College Scholarships: https://www.wcpss.net/Page/49756
  - College Guidance Consultants: http://www.collegeguidanceconsultants.com/
  - Merit Aid ~ http://www.meritaid.com/
  - National Community Service Scholarship ~ http://www.learnandserve.gov/home/site_map/index.asp
  - Sallie Mae ~ http://www.thesalliemaefund.org/smfnew/sections/apply.html

** Neither WCPSS nor GLHS endorse the above websites. They are just suggestions for your use. **