

## College and Career Planning-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

I will send this by e-mail so you can connect to the links.

### Twelfth-Grade Planner

#### **August/September**

- *Meet with your counselor to make sure you're on track to meet graduation and admissions requirements.*
- *Keep doing your best in your classes.*
- *Narrow your list of schools and request admissions information from each.*
- *Check out the catalog from each school you're interested in. Most catalogs are online, or you can ask the school to send you one.*
- *Request your personalized **Getting the Facts – Your Personalized College Guide** online through your MyKHEAA account.*
- ***Most early decision or early action admission deadlines are in October and November. (Note this deadline. Colleges want to lock in their students and especially the time for scholarships and special program admissions is early, in many cases Dec. 1. If you know where you are going or have it narrowed down to a couple get your admissions and scholarship applications in early. If you don't meet deadlines you are out of luck for that year for those programs or scholarships. JK)***
- *Create a college access calendar to track:*
  - *Test dates, fees and deadlines.*
  - *College application due dates.*
  - *Financial aid applications and deadlines.*
  - *Deadlines for requesting recommendation letters, transcripts and other necessary material. Ask people at least two weeks before you need them.*
- ***Register for the October SAT and/or ACT. You must take the ACT/SAT before you graduate from high school to qualify for a KEES bonus award.***
- *Go to <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> to set up a Federal Student Aid ID and password. (Keep your ID and password in multiple places so if you lose something you will still have access. JK)*

#### **October**

- *Gather information you need to file the FAFSA. Submit it as soon as possible after Oct. 1. The best way to file is online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).*
- *Begin writing admissions essays. Ask a teacher or counselor to review and provide feedback.*

- Attend college fairs, visit colleges and meet with admission representatives.
- Request recommendations from teachers, employers and counselors. **(Don't get these done unless they are necessary and give people as much time as possible. They will do a better job is they have appropriate time to complete. JK)** Give each person your resume; a stamped, addressed envelope; and any required forms
- Apply for early decision if that's your plan. **Keep copies of everything you send.**

### **November**

- Use [Affording Higher Education](#) and the [Scholarship Search](#) link on [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com) to find scholarships. Apply for all scholarships for which you are eligible.
- Complete any college essays you have to submit. Have a teacher or parent proofread for mistakes.
- Make a list of your top choices and begin preparing applications.

### **December**

- Get your recommendation letters from your references and send them thank-you notes.
- Finish and submit your college applications. **Keep copies of everything you send.**
- Have your high school send transcripts to the colleges you selected.

### **January**

- If you're accepted for early decision, withdraw applications to other schools.
- Complete any additional financial aid applications required by schools. **Keep copies of everything you send.**
- Contact colleges to make sure they received your application.
- Submit mid-year grade reports to schools that require them.

### **February**

- Register for the May SAT or April ACT. **This may be your LAST CHANCE** to earn your full KEES scholarship award. **(Only consider this if you have only taken the test once or you took it a second time and realized a good increase in your score. If you are willing to really commit to preparation a higher score might be a benefit. Talk to me or the college or your choice and see how ACT scores affect scholarship and enrollment. Most colleges base their scholarships on scores. If you need a 30 to qualify and you have taken the ACT twice and scored a 21 it is unlikely you can increase your score to the higher level. JK)**
- Review college acceptance letters and compare financial aid offers. **(You need to look at these closely. Most will have a loan included and if you sign without checking you do not want the loan it will be included. Look at total costs. Some college might offer thousands of dollars but still cost more than the offer from another school. JK)**

### **March**

- *Make your final choice. Send acceptance letters, any other documents and deposits to the school you chose.*
- *Notify the schools you won't be attending.*
- *Request course descriptions and schedules from the school you have selected.*
- *Review your Student Aid Report, which will tell you how much your family is expected to pay for your education. If any information is incorrect, make corrections online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)*
- *If selected for financial aid verification, provide documents to the college.*

### **April**

- *Confirm housing arrangements and send in any required deposits.*

### **May**

- *Submit scholarship acceptance forms.*
- *Make sure you've returned all financial aid award notices.*
- *Plan to attend freshman orientation and registration.*

### **June**

- *Make sure your final high school transcript is sent to the school you'll attend.*
- *Consider getting a summer job to help you pay some of your expenses.*
- *Send thank-you notes to anyone who helped you during the application process.*

### **July**

- *Make a list of what you'll need to take with you.*
- *If you haven't met your roommate, take time to get acquainted.*
- *Check your school's social media websites to connect with other students.*

### **August**

- *Make sure you have your housing documentation when you move into the dorm.*
- *Review a campus map. Learn how to get around at your new school.*
- *Buy your books and supplies after the first class meeting.*
- *Work hard in your classes so your college career will be a success.*

[https://www.kheaa.com/website/kheaa/plan\\_time\\_12th?main=1](https://www.kheaa.com/website/kheaa/plan_time_12th?main=1) is the source for the italicized information above.

Here are some other things to consider this year-

- As soon as they become available apply for local scholarships. I will attempt to have the forms available. Here is a partial list-
  - This is a priority as many of the eight listed scholarships provide significant help for college. The applications are made available in February and due in April .  
[http://www.hayswood.org/Scholarship\\_Programs.html](http://www.hayswood.org/Scholarship_Programs.html)
  - G. L. & ELSIE H. DOWNING SCHOLARSHIP  
 For residents of Mason County, Kentucky
  - KATIE DESPAIN SCHOLARSHIP  
 For graduates of Mason County and St. Patrick's High Schools
  - PAT MOORE SCHOLARSHIP  
 For graduates of Mason County, St. Patrick's, and Fleming County High Schools who were student athletes
  - HEDGES-BARNETT SCHOLARSHIP  
 For graduates of Bracken County High School
  - MATT STAHL SCHOLARSHIP  
 For graduates of Mason County and St. Patrick's High Schools
  - ZACHARY RUBLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP  
 For graduates of Mason County High School
  - WILLIAM G. & ROSEMARY REETZ SCHOLARSHIP  
 For graduates of Mason County, St. Patrick's, and Riply-Union-Lewis-Huntington (RULH) High Schools
  - LAURANCE L. BROWNING, JR. SCHOLARSHIP  
 For residents of Mason County, Kentucky
  - Mason County Homemakers Scholarships
  - Farm Bureau Scholarships
  - Mary Margaret Meadows Scholarship
  - MAYSVILLE - MASON CO. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SCHOLARSHIP
  - Maysville Rotary Club Scholarship
  - Woodmen of the World Scholarship
  - Ohio Valley Arts Guild Scholarship
  - Dozens of Scholarship opportunities found here-  
<https://www.kheaa.com/pdf/pubs/ky/ahe/ahekyscholar.pdf>
- Keep a record of activities/ awards and keep it in more than one place.
- Focus on faith and family. Enjoy your but consider a class at a community college. Be sure you have checked it will fit into your college program.
- Read, Read, Read, Read. Read for pleasure, read history, fiction, self-improvement books, magazines, graphic novels, comic books, and newspapers. Read a variety of things.
  - *"Reading has been shown to put our brains into a pleasurable trance-like state, similar to meditation, and it brings the same health benefits of deep relaxation and inner calm. Regular readers sleep better, have lower stress levels, higher self-esteem, and lower rates of depression than non-readers."* <https://open.buffer.com/reading-fiction/>
  - If you are motivated by material success the one time richest man in the world (he has given a lot it away) said this about reading- *"Read 500 pages like this every day," while reaching toward a stack of manuals and papers. "That's how knowledge works. It builds*

*up, like compound interest. All of you can do it, but I guarantee not many of you will do it." <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/03/27/warren-buffetts-key-tip-for-success-read-500-pages-a-day.html> Buffet is 87 years old and still reads four to five hours each day. He is not an exception. The one attribute "ultra-successful" people share is reading. "Bill Gates reads about 50 books per year, which breaks down to 1 per week. Mark Cuban reads more than 3 hours every day. Elon Musk is an avid reader and when asked how he learned to build rockets, he said "I read books." Mark Zuckerberg resolved to read a book every 2 weeks throughout 2015. Oprah Winfrey selects one of her favorite books every month for her Book Club members to read and discuss."*

*[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/andrew-merle/the-reading-habits-of-ult\\_b\\_9688130.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/andrew-merle/the-reading-habits-of-ult_b_9688130.html)*