

SENIOR YEAR Timeline 2023-2024

Welcome to your senior year! This document is meant to help you stay aware of important events and steps to take as you work toward career and/or college readiness and launching off on your next adventure after graduation! Visit the [counseling office website](#) for helpful information including and beyond what is outlined below. Email or [schedule a visit](#) with Mr. Vander Wal if you have questions or something you'd like to discuss or need help with. Each senior will also have a roughly 45 minute "Senior Visit" visit with me (Mr. Vander Wal) in September or October where we will discuss your particular situation and goals. Make plans to attend or watch the recordings of at least two [career readiness opportunities](#) through the Kent Intermediate School District this year ([recorded career presentations on YouTube](#)) to further your awareness and knowledge about available careers. The Xello/Khan Academy Focus Period room is a great place/time to do this! **Career Exploration Items are in Green**

SEPTEMBER

- [Kent ISD Career Readiness Opportunities](#)
- Use [Xello](#) to explore college career options that match your goals and gifts.
- Check out [Michigan's Hot 50 Job Outlook](#) for high demand jobs.
- Check out [Roadtrip Nation](#) for career information, tools, resources, and engaging documentaries.
- [Parchment](#) accounts set up with Mr. Vander Wal. This is the program you will use to process transcript sends to institutions.
- Senior Visits start in September. These are individual meetings with Mr. Vander Wal to discuss important items for senior year as well as your individual goals and plans for the future. Meetings are typically 45 minutes.
- [SAT registration](#) deadline for the October 7 test date is due September 7.
- [ACT registration](#) for the October 28 test date is September 22 (CCHS is NOT a testing site).
- For some colleges, October test scores are the last they will allow for acceptance and/or scholarships. Research deadlines for new scores for your school(s) and seriously consider trying for a higher score that could get you more financial aid!
- College representatives visit CCHS for presentations during Focus Periods or availability at tables during lunch - see announcements for weekly list or the CCHS website for a [master list](#) and [ask good questions](#) when you visit with a rep!
- Time to be exploring colleges, setting up [visits to colleges](#), receiving application materials. You will typically set up college visits using college websites. Be sure to complete a college visit form with Mrs. Betten if you need to miss school for a college visit.
- It is recommended to submit applications to selective colleges (U of M especially) by the end of this month.
- Use the [Common App](#) when possible to streamline the college application process (Mr. Vander Wal uploads transcripts for Common App applications as well as mid-year and final-year reports - students not using the Common App will need to track these needs carefully on their own.)

- Students stay up to date on scholarship opportunities using the counseling office website, emails from Mr. Vander Wal and other resources (most scholarship deadlines fall in Nov. - Mar.).
- September 20 - Senior Parent Info and FAFSA Night – Parents will receive important information about senior year as well as helpful advice on filling out the [FAFSA](#).
- Students considering playing a sport at a **NCAA Division I or II** school should go to www.eligibilitycenter.org and get registered. MAKE SURE TO INFORM COUNSELOR.

OCTOBER

- [Kert ISD Career Readiness Opportunities](#)
- Use [Xello](#) to explore college career options that match your goals and gifts.
- Check out [Michigan's Hot 50 Job Outlook](#) for high demand jobs.
- Check out [Roadtrip Nation](#) for career information, tools, resources, and engaging documentaries.
- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) can normally be submitted starting October 1, **BUT THIS YEAR ONLY IT IS DELAYED UNTIL DECEMBER**. You will receive numerous reminders from the financial aid offices of the colleges you have applied to. The FAFSA must be filled out online.
- Senior Visits continue. These are individual meetings with Mr. Vander Wal to discuss important items for senior year as well as your goals and plans for the future. Meetings are typically 45 minutes.
- For some colleges, October test scores are the last they will allow for acceptance and/or scholarships.
- SAT test date is October 7.
- [SAT registration](#) for the November 4 test date is due October 5.
- ACT test is October 28.
- [Send your SAT test scores](#) and/or [send ACT scores](#) to the colleges where you are applying.
- College representatives visit CCHS for presentations during Focus Periods or availability at tables during lunch - see announcements for weekly list or the CCHS website for a [master list](#) and [ask good questions](#) when you visit with a rep!
- Applications are submitted to colleges. Request transcripts to be sent to colleges using [Parchment](#). Early action/decision applications submitted by Nov. 1 in many cases.
- Visit colleges during CEA Teachers' Convention, October 19 and 20.

NOVEMBER

- [Kert ISD Career Readiness Opportunities](#)
- Use [Xello](#) to explore college career options that match your goals and gifts.
- Check out [Michigan's Hot 50 Job Outlook](#) for high demand jobs.
- Check out [Roadtrip Nation](#) for career information, tools, resources, and engaging documentaries.
- [SAT registration](#) for the December 2 test date is due by November 2.
- [ACT registration](#) for the December 9 test date is November 3 (CCHS is a testing site).

- [SAT test](#) date is November 4.
- Students should know which colleges they are applying to, and get their applications sent out by Thanksgiving break.
- Plan/go on [college visits](#).
- Continue to visit with college representatives during Focus Periods and/or at lunch.

DECEMBER

- [Kert ISD Career Readiness Opportunities](#)
- Use [Xello](#) to explore college career options that match your goals and gifts.
- Check out [Michigan's Hot 50 Job Outlook](#) for high demand jobs.
- Check out [Roadtrip Nation](#) for career information, tools, resources, and engaging documentaries.
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) can be submitted starting this month (normally October 1 but delayed this year). You will receive numerous reminders from the financial aid offices of the colleges you have applied to. The FAFSA must be filled out online.
- [SAT test](#) December 2.
- [ACT test](#) December 9.
- All college applications should be sent out BEFORE Christmas vacation at the latest. It is the student's responsibility to know application deadlines for colleges they are interested in.
- December 31 is the acceptance deadline for scholarship consideration for GVSU.

JANUARY - MAY

- [Kert ISD Career Readiness Opportunities](#)
- Use [Xello](#) to explore college career options that match your goals and gifts.
- Check out [Michigan's Hot 50 Job Outlook](#) for high demand jobs.
- Check out [Roadtrip Nation](#) for career information, tools, resources, and engaging documentaries.
- Check deadlines for late college application submission.
- Some colleges have a February 1 application deadline for scholarship consideration.
- By this time, most students will know which colleges they have been accepted to. Some highly selective colleges have late notification dates.
- Financial Aid packages are sent out to students. Parents, along with their students, begin to compare financial aid packages to see which schools are affordable. A final school selection is then made. In most cases, this must occur by May 1.
- Many local scholarships become available during this time. Students hear of these opportunities by way of the CCHS website, announcements, emails, and other sources. CCHS donor funded scholarships common application typically available in February.
- Students should inform all colleges where they have been admitted of their decision to attend or not by May 1 at the latest.

When making your final college choice you may want to consider:

1. Location
2. Size

3. Do I want a dorm experience?
4. Christian/Private, Public
5. Climate
6. Cost
7. Can I get in?
8. Majors/flexibility to change
9. Student life

[Helpful Tips](#)

[Not Sure where to even start? Let Big Future Help you!](#)

College websites are the best resource for researching all of the above. You can make a decision about affordability after you receive the financial package from the school.