



Dear Senior Parents or Guardians,

The following is some important information that might be helpful for parents with seniors. Below is a bulleted list of some things to know. Also, attached is a senior year timeline for you to see what is happening each month throughout the school year.

- Graduation Requirements – In order to earn a Cascade High School diploma and be eligible to participate in graduation, every student must earn 25.5 credits, pass the math, reading and writing state assessments (if they do not pass the state assessments they will have to pass a work sample that is offered at the school), and pass the senior exit interview.
- College Applications – Many colleges have application deadlines starting in November and ending the first part of February. Each college is different so it is really important to know the exact application deadline for the colleges your student might want to apply to.
- College Visits – We always recommend that a student visit the colleges that they are interested in applying to. We will excuse any absence for a college visit. Please pre-arrange the absence with teachers and the attendance office.
- Transcripts – Transcripts can be sent to any college by the high school counseling office, or given directly to the student to deliver. The student just needs to come in and ask Mrs. Banks in the counseling office for an official or unofficial transcript.
- FAFSA – The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) should be filled out and submitted after October 1, 2019. This is a very important first step in the financial aid process, because it will qualify your senior for any financial assistance available to them. Even if you don't think your family will qualify for any grants or scholarships, by submitting the FAFSA your student may qualify for work study or low interest loans. The FAFSA will ask for 2018 tax information, so it is recommended to have that information easily accessible when filling out the FAFSA. We would love to see every senior complete a FAFSA to see what money is available to them for post-secondary education. Remember the application is Free, and the valuable information you get back from the FAFSA is well worth the time. Please visit www.fafsa.gov to submit the FAFSA.
- Financial Aid Night – The high school has a financial aid information session In the beginning of the year. This is a great opportunity to learn about the financial aid process and what kind of financial aid is available.
- Scholarships – The counseling office at the high school has scholarship information throughout the school year. At the beginning of each month there is an updated list of the scholarships available. Many of the scholarships have online applications, but there are some scholarships with applications to fill out and mail. Almost all of the local scholarships come out in the spring and are due in March and April. However, there are national and state scholarships available at various times throughout the school year. The updated scholarship list will be available on the high school website under the counseling link.
- The Military – Military recruiters from each branch of the military come on campus at least once a month. If a student is interested in talking to a recruiter, but they have not seen one on campus, they can come in and talk to a counselor to get a meeting set up.
- NCAA and NAIA College Athletics – Any student who plans to play a sport at an NCAA division I, II, or III level college, or an NAIA college must register with the NCAA clearinghouse (for NCAA colleges) or the NAIA clearinghouse (for NAIA colleges). Both clearinghouses determine if a student is academically

eligible to participate in athletics at the college level. To register for the NCAA clearinghouse please visit www.eligibilitycenter.org To register for the NAIA clearinghouse please visit www.playnaia.org

- Letters of Recommendation – If students need letters of recommendations from teachers, counselors, coaches or any other staff members, please give the person writing the letter as much notice as possible. It is good to give the letter writers at least a week to complete the letter.
- AP Testing – The students who take AP (Advance Placement) classes are encouraged to take the AP exams in May. If the student passes the AP exam, they can receive college credit at some colleges. The AP exams cost \$92 per test. Students sign up with their AP teachers to take AP exams. Once the student signs up, the AP exams are ordered for the student. If a student changes their mind about taking an AP exam, and the exams are ordered, it will cost the student \$40 to have the unused exam returned (which is the fee the AP program charges the high school for every unused exam that is returned).
- SAT and ACT Testing – Every four year college or university requires that their applicants take either the SAT or ACT as an admission requirement. Most college and universities will except either test, with a few requiring the ACT only. While the SAT is the most popular test taken by seniors, it is a good idea to check with the colleges to make sure they accept either test. North Salem High School and West Salem High School are the two test centers in Salem that offer the SAT. The ACT is offered at Chemeketa Community College. Test registration is online at www.sat.org/register for the SAT and www.actstudent.org for the ACT.

SAT		ACT	
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Test Date	Registration Deadline
Oct. 5, 2019	Sept. 6th	Sept. 14, 2019	Aug. 16
Nov. 2, 2019	Oct. 3	Oct. 26, 2019	Sept. 20
Dec. 7, 2019	Nov. 8	Dec. 14, 2019	Nov. 8
Mar. 1, 2020	Feb. 14	Feb. 8, 2020	Jan. 10
May 2, 2022	Apr. 3	April 4, 2020	Feb. 28
June 6, 2020	May 8	June 13, 2020	May 8
		July 18, 2020	June 19

If you ever have questions or concerns that come up throughout the school year, please don't hesitate to contact the counselors at 503-749-8020 ext 2905 for Cristina Williams cwilliams@cascade.k12.or.us . or ext 2906 for Katharine Iliyn kliyn@cascade.k12.or.us

Sincerely,

Cristina Williams and Katharine Iliyn
 School Counselors
 Cascade High School

Senior Year Timeline

Cascade High School

October

- Research scholarship opportunities
- Start deciding which colleges to apply to
- Submit your senior photo and baby photo to Ms. Bullock for the yearbook and graduation slideshow
- College Visit
- National College Fair in Portland
- Senior meeting with Jostens to order graduation announcements, cap and gown, etc.
- Homecoming
- Submit the FAFSA starting October 1
- Take the ACT if necessary

November

- Take the SAT if necessary
- Start applying to colleges (3 or 4 is recommended)
- Research scholarship opportunities
- College visit
- Oregon Promise application process begins
- Complete the NCAA clearinghouse form if you plan to participate in athletics at a NCAA Division I, II, or III college, or the NAIA clearinghouse form for NAIA colleges

December

- Apply to colleges
- Research scholarship opportunities
- Take the SAT/ACT if necessary
- College visit

January

- Apply for scholarships
- Apply to colleges
- Take the SAT if necessary
- Senior Exit Interviews

February

- Apply for scholarships
- Take the ACT if necessary
- Career Day/Senior Exit Interviews

March

- Apply for scholarships
- Valedictorian and Salutatorian are determined at the end of 2nd trimester
- Chemeketa Scholars Applications are due

April

- Jostens will come to the high school to deliver graduation announcements, etc.
- Apply for scholarships
- Sign up for AP exams
- Prom

May

- Jostens will come to the high school to deliver caps and gowns
- Top 20 dinner
- Baccalaureate
- Senior Awards Night
- Senior Trip
- Graduation
- AP Exams
- Tell the counseling office where you want final transcripts sent e.g. college, NCAA clearinghouse, military branch, etc.

June

- Receive your yearbook
- Diplomas will be sent to the graduates home address listed in schoolmaster