


## Twelfth Grade Gray's Creek High School

- ◆ Secure strong recommendations from your teachers, guidance counselor, and others. This requires advance planning on your part. Keep the following in mind:
    - Ask for recommendations from teachers and others who know you well.
    - Ask for a recommendation from a teacher in the field in which you may wish to major.
    - Be sure to ask for recommendations well in advance of deadlines.
    - Provide stamped envelopes that are preaddressed to the colleges.
    - Thank the teacher or other person for writing the recommendation. A written note and/or small gift card truly shows your appreciation. Keep him/her informed of your college decisions.
    - **Follow up! It is your responsibility to make sure that letters of recommendation arrive before college deadlines!**
  
  - ◆ Make a file on each college you are considering. Make up a chart that includes:
    - Application deadlines (including early action and early decision dates)
    - Financial aid deadlines (they are often different at different colleges)
    - Notification dates
    - Tests required
    - Costs
    - Number and type of recommendations required (refer to recommendation information above)
    - Interview deadlines and locations
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- ◆ Write every important deadline on your calendar. Check federal aid deadlines. **Keep your parents informed! All students who will be attending college will need to complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). This should be done as soon as possible after the first of January 2012.**
  
  - ◆ Sign up for SATs or the ACT. You may take as many SAT-II Subject Tests as you wish, but no more than three per test session.
  
  - ◆ If your SAT or ACT scores are not as high as you expected, consider taking a preparatory course. Remember, the cost of the course may not reflect its quality. Try to find one in which the instructor will analyze your answer sheet, provide you with specific information on your strengths and weaknesses, and offer tips and hints on how to raise your scores.

SAT Test Dates	ACT Test Dates
October 1, 2011	September 10, 2011
November 5, 2011	October 22, 2011
December 3, 2011	December 10, 2011
January 28, 2012	February 11, 2012
March 10, 2012	April 14, 2012
May 5, 2012	June 9, 2012
June 2, 2012	

◆ **Use Peterson's Student Edge website at [www.mystudentedge.com](http://www.mystudentedge.com) . The access code is **AWNGEHRN** for Gray's Creek High School.** For this site you will need to disable pop up blockers. Student may take a pretest for most major tests. If the student chooses "personalized course" before taking the pretest, then the site will create a personalized online tutorial for the student based on pretest results.

**This site is the college prep go-to site!**

- ◆ Make sure that your SAT or ACT scores are sent to your guidance counselor and the schools to which you are applying. Typically, no fee is charged when scores are sent to your high school and three colleges. There may be a fee for additional schools. Every college treats scores differently. Review your scores with your guidance counselor and ask for an interpretation that relates to the schools you are considering.
- ◆ Know the procedures used by guidance to send your applications, transcripts, letters of recommendation, and supporting materials to the colleges. Find out whether the registrar or counselor has a deadline also. Early in December is typical, but some high schools set earlier deadlines. *It is your responsibility to ensure that applications and supporting materials reach the colleges on time.*
- ◆ If your school does not send application forms and supporting material to the colleges for you, then you must be sure to send everything on time. Pay attention to deadlines.
- ◆ Carefully review your high school transcript. If some courses listed are not easy to identify, be sure to add a description of those courses. Also, be sure your school profile is included.
- ◆ Maintain or continue to improve your academic standing. Most colleges look unfavorably upon an applicant whose grades are falling. If one of your grades is falling, write a letter of explanation.
- ◆ Continue visits to the colleges you are seriously considering.
- ◆ Update your college-planning portfolio. Be sure to add recent achievements and new events that have occurred.



## Application Forms



- ◆ Make extra copies of each application form. Use the copies for practice before filling out the originals.
- ◆ Unless otherwise stated, type everything. Have someone proofread every word on your application. *Correct all errors.*
- ◆ Applications require objective and subjective information. Subjective information includes the presentation of extracurricular activities.

Provide information that makes you “come alive” to the reader and that clearly demonstrates your ability to do college-level work. When possible, document your activities and demonstrate long-term commitment. Be specific about things you did that may not appear on your school records.

## Interviews

- ◆ If the college to which you have applied to requires an interview, sign up early. One purpose of the interview is for you to find out what a specific college offers that will assist you in reaching your goals. Another is to provide you with the opportunity to give the college information about yourself that is not apparent from a review of your application and other records.
- ◆ A good interview takes preparation. Read the catalog before the interview, and be ready to show your familiarity with the college.
- ◆ Ask good questions. For example: Who teaches freshman courses? and What is the school’s recent experience in placing alumni in graduate schools, professional schools, and jobs?
- ◆ Do not ask questions to which you can find answers by reviewing the catalog or other written material.
- ◆ Write a note of appreciation to your interviewer within one week following the interview.



## Essays

- ◆ If the college requires an essay, ask your teacher or counselor to review your essays. **Spelling and grammar must be perfect, and neatness counts.** Keep copies of everything you write.



*Remember...*  
“All your dreams can come true...if you have the courage to pursue them.”

*Walt Disney*

