

■ Senior Weekly College & Career Update

Week of September 15, 2025

■ Scholarships & Funding

- Check out Scholarships.com — a free, vetted scholarship search engine that helps match you to college scholarships you qualify for.
- Also consider trying Fastweb and BigFuture to expand your options.
- This week's tip: Set aside a consistent "scholarship hour" twice a week—use that time to review new matches, draft essays or emails, and submit applications.
- Keep a spreadsheet of what you've applied to, deadlines, and follow-up dates (e.g., "submitted 9/17, heard back by 10/20").

■ College Applications & Timeline

- Common App opened August 1. If you haven't already, finalize your personal statement and begin your college list using the "My Colleges" tab.
- Early Action / Early Decision deadlines start in October–November.
- Many colleges have regular decision deadlines in January or rolling admissions into the spring—don't procrastinate.
- This week's tip: Double-check each school's deadline. Mark application opening dates, supplemental essay deadlines, and test score submission deadlines on your calendar now.

■ Career Exploration & Opportunities

- Continue using Virtual Job Shadowing to explore careers and see "day-in-the-life" videos.
- Use CareerOneStop to research job outlooks, training and credential requirements, and median salaries.
- If STEM or aerospace interests you, check for NASA high school internships or youth research programs before the end of fall.

■ To-Do List for the Second Half of September

- Finalize and polish your Common App personal statement by September 30.
- Create a folder (digital or physical) for each college on your list: include login info, essays (drafts and final), deadlines, campus tour notes, and scholarship matches.
- Start drafting any college-specific supplemental essays. Tackling one per week now will reduce stress later.
- Ask your recommenders if they're ready to submit letters of recommendation—and politely remind them of your school deadlines.
- Schedule a campus tour (virtual or in-person) for any remaining colleges you're seriously considering—notes from tours can strengthen your essays or interviews.
- Join or continue at least one extracurricular activity or volunteer commitment—colleges like to see consistent involvement, and it may connect to scholarships.

■ Staying Organized & Motivated

- Build a weekly “Senior Tracker” with columns for: College Name | Application Deadline | Essay Status | Recommendation Status | Scholarship Matches | Submitted? | Follow-Up Date.
- Break your work into small, manageable chunks (e.g., Monday: research scholarships; Wednesday: draft essay; Friday: follow up on transcript requests).
- Reward progress. Finished the personal statement? Treat yourself to something small—ice cream, a movie night, or a walk outside.