

Dear Senior Parents,

The lead up to holiday season is a very important time for all Class of 2025 students. The following information will help you understand what your son or daughter should be doing to assure they are on track for their post-graduation plans. Please communicate with your senior and encourage them to be focused on the steps they need to complete before the holiday vacation.

### All Seniors

No matter what a senior's plans are, maintaining strong grades in all classes is important. College admissions, potential employers, apprenticeships and the military do look at transcripts to help determine who are the best candidates for the positions they have to offer. Seniors' first priority should be a continued focus on SAHS studies.

### College Bound Students

If admissions applications have not already been completed, now is the time to get them done. Ideally, completion of admissions applications will be done before **December 1**. December 1 is a priority deadline for many colleges that award merit scholarships. Applying after December 1 is okay but scholarships from colleges may not be as available.

- Students should request all application supports in guidance (transcripts/letters of recommendation) at least a week before an application due date.
- Because it becomes very busy just before the holiday break, seniors need to request necessary admissions documents from guidance no later than Thursday, December 12. This will guarantee college admissions will receive letters and transcripts prior to the vacation.

### Financial Aid

All senior students with the support of their parents, even those who do not think they will go to college, should apply for financial aid. Each year students who do not think they will go to college change their minds late in the school year and should have applied for aid in the fall. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is fairly easy to complete, and it does not cost anything. By completing it, your senior's eligibility for financial aid will be determined. The FAFSA is going to be available for completion December 1 at: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. **Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after 12/1!**

Before a FAFSA can be completed, both the student and parent(s) need to get an electronic signature known as a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID). You can do this by going to: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>. Parents who filed 2023 income taxes jointly only need 1 FSA ID. Parents who filed 2023 income taxes separately will need to get a FSA ID for each parent. In an instance where parents are divorced, only one parent needs to get a FSA ID and that would be the parent with whom the senior lives 51% of the time.

FSA ID Student Guide: <https://www.famemaine.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/STUDENT-FSA-ID-Tracking-Sheet.pdf>

FSA ID Parent Guide: <https://www.famemaine.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/PARENT-FSA-ID-Tracking-Sheet.pdf>

### Considering the Military

Seniors considering the military should be communicating with the recruiters from the branches of the military they wish to pursue. Finding a recruiter is easy to do. Seniors can google the contact information of the recruiter they want to speak to by typing in recruiter, the branch of the military of interest, and Central Maine.

### Workforce Bound

Seniors should be investigating job trends and possible apprenticeship opportunities. There are many regional jobs available to high school graduates. Seniors can investigate available jobs by researching on google, by going to local company websites, and by getting support from the regional Career Center: <https://mainecareercenter.gov/locations/hinckley.shtml>. Google is another great tool to find apprenticeship opportunities or seniors can check out the Maine Apprenticeship Program website: <https://apprenticeship.maine.gov/>.

### Questions

Please reach out to your senior's guidance counselor or send your senior to see their counselor.

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