

College & Career
"YEAR-BY-YEAR"
GOALS



Hickory Christian

ACADEMY

POST-SECONDARY PLANNING GUIDELINES
JENNY SIGMON

Academics

- Take challenging classes and commit to doing your best.
- Challenge yourself to try something new.
- Get to know your teachers.
- Do not be afraid to ask questions.
- Get to know your School Counselor.

Personal/Social

- Deepen relationships with your peers.
- Make a new friend.
- Talk to your parents about your High School experience.

College Entrance Testing

- In the fall, take the PSAT.
- In the spring, take the Pre-ACT.

Extracurricular Activities

- Explore your interests! Sports, Computers, Horses, Art, Math, Music, Fencing, Photography, Travel, Guitar... The possibilities are endless.
- Get involved both inside and outside of school.
- Join a club or sports team. Drama club, Civics club, Mock Trial, Basketball, Volleyball, Baseball, Swimming, Cross Country, etc.
- Get involved in church or community activities. Youth group or Youth Council...
- Keep a running list of all activities, accomplishments, awards, and recognitions.

Career Interest

- Explore and Identify fields of interest through online sources.
- Take the "Wired that Way" Personality Inventory at HCA.

Spiritual

- Invite God into the process! Pray for God to strengthen your mind and transform your heart.
- Ask God to reveal His plan for your life.
- Take advantage of weekly chapels.
- Grow in your relationship with Christ.



Summer Months

- Continue visiting colleges you are interested in.
- Narrow down the colleges being considered.
- Plan to apply to 3-9 schools.
- Begin brainstorming college essay topics.
- Make decisions regarding early decision or early action programs.
- Correspond with colleges of interest.

Fall Semester

- Register for and take (or retake) the SAT and/or ACT (through December), if not already done.
- Complete and submit college applications prior to deadlines.
- Complete and submit scholarship applications prior to deadlines.
- Request transcripts and letters of recommendation.
- Register for a Federal Student Aid PIN.
- Complete FAFSA Application - Opens Oct. 1
- Meet with School Guidance Counselor to check-in about Post-Secondary plans and to verify that graduation requirements will be met on schedule.
- Avoid obsessing over the admission process.
- Combat Senioritis. Remember, colleges receive midyear grade report and final year transcript. They can rescind offers or alter financial aid packages.

Spring Semester

- Consider college acceptances and compare financial aid packages.
- Make a final decision on which college to attend - May 1.
- Contact all colleges to inform of decisions.
- Make informed decisions about student loans.
- Enjoy your senior experience - "responsibly".
- Send "thank you" notes to all of those who submitted "letters of recommendation" for you.
- Write a "thank you" letter to your parents for their support.



Truths to claim during this process:

- *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
John 14:6
- *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, it is he that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*
John 15:5
- *"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*
Jeremiah 29:11
- *I sought the Lord and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears"*
Psalms 34:4
- *Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path.*
Psalms 119:105
- *In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*
Proverbs 3:6
- *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*
Colossians 3:2
- *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
Romans 12:2
- *The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.*
Proverbs 16:9

