College Readiness Timeline for Seniors

September

- ✓ Finalize post-secondary plans. Finish gathering information on schools you like. Check admission deadlines, as some colleges require completed applications by November.
- ✓ Meet with college admissions representatives visiting the school.
- ✓ Ask teachers, coaches, employers, and counselors early for letters of recommendation.
- ✓ Make a calendar of college application and financial aid deadlines.
- ✓ Attend the PROBE College Fair in the fall. Counselors will have dates.

October

- ✓ Retake the ACT or SAT in early fall to improve scores, & send scores to colleges of interest.
- ✓ Work on admissions application essays.
- ✓ Visit post-secondary institutions of your choice early in your senior year.
- ✓ Apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This form can be completed at www.fafsa.gov using last year's tax information. Deadline varies by college, but the earlier you complete it, the better. Also, by completing this federal financial aid application, you're also applying for HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship.

November

- ✓ Prepare your college applications.
- ✓ Participate in "Georgia Apply to College Day" at NMHS. This will be built into the school day.
- ✓ Research and apply for scholarships. Check this out for starters: https://nmhscounseling.weebly.com/college-financial-aid.html
- ✓ Visit with your counselor and listen for announcements concerning post-secondary representatives' visits, scholarship information, and test registration dates.

December/January

- ✓ Keep all your college admission, financial aid, and housing applications in one folder.
- ✓ Complete NMHS Local Scholarship Application (typically due early February).

February

- ✓ Check whether your transcripts & test scores have been sent to the schools you've applied to.

March/April

- ✓ Watch the mail for acceptance letters and financial aid award letters.
- ✓ Contact the financial aid office at your chosen school to ensure they can access your FAFSA.

May

- ✓ Prepare for final exams.
- ✓ Write thank you notes to the people who write your letters of recommendation.
- ✓ Celebrate your high school graduation!

Final Notes:

- ✓ Maintain an academically rigorous course of study. This is not the year to relax.
- ✓ Study, work hard, and do your best to earn good grades. Your performance in high school plays an important part in gaining admission to college.