

Time to Bloom

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

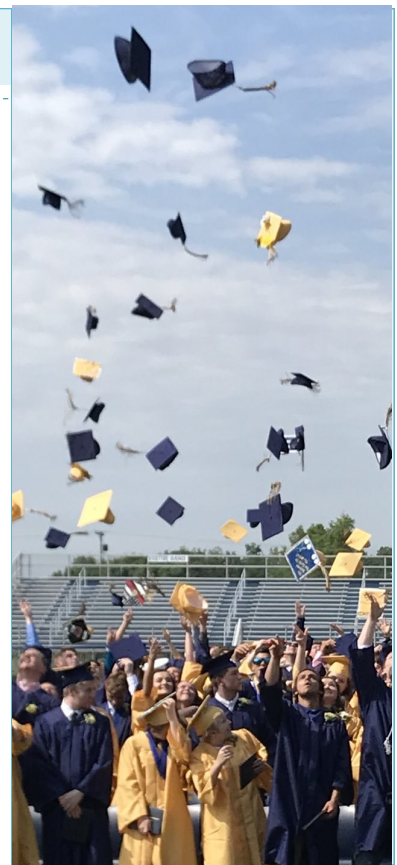
Too many times we assume that our senior year will be packed with parties and celebrations, often forgetting the stress and anxiety that comes when our entire world as we have known it is about to change. You have been here now, most of you, for four years. You know the staff, the principals, the custodians, the secretaries, the cafeteria staff and your counselors and with that, brings a sense of comfort and security. Even if you are the student who does not like school, you most likely are comfortable in the environment and the walls of security that have been “home.”

With graduation almost here, you realize that the stability that you have always known is now slipping your grasp and you must step your foot into the unknown. Almost like diving into a dark pond. But, with that uncertainty of what lies below is also the thrill of the jump.

Seniors, take this time to enjoy the thrill of the jump into your next chapter and be confident that you spent the last four years preparing for the dark water. Anxiety, sadness, happiness, and a sense of high energy are a combination of emotions that you are or will be feeling. They are all normal. The combination can cause self-doubt and reluctance and make you want to tread backwards and not move forward. Your education at Teays Valley High School has prepared you for more than just treading water; you can swim.

Have you ever read a book and were disappointed with the ending? You spent hours reading and then, the chapter, the author just gave up. You were frustrated because you spent time and energy reading the book, getting invested, and you felt like it needed just a little more for a promising ending.

The final grade card is not much different for seniors. You have a transcript that tells a story, not the entire story, but it shares an important piece of who you were over the past four years. The final nine weeks is the end of the story. Don't leave your readers (parents, counselors, teachers, recruiters, employers, college admission officers, friends) without a proper ending. Keep working so that the last chapter is the best and leaves your audience waiting for more.



IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 4.....TVDA Ses. End
- April 12.....Early Release
- April 12..Last Day of Interim
- April 13.....Prom
- April 15.....Start of CCP Scheduling
- April 22 & 23...2-Hour Delay
- May 1...College Decision Day
- May 14.....Seniors' Last Day
- May 15.....Senior Awards
- May 16..Graduation Practice
- May 19.....Commencement
- May 22.....Last Day for All Students

DECISION DAY

May 1. That's the day you get to make one of the biggest decisions of your life.

Scared? Nervous? Don't worry. Take a deep breath, make a list, think about your goals, and go with your heart. You will never regret your decision when you can say that you thought it through and picked the right college *for you*. Your best friend's perfect fit might not be yours, and that's okay! College is the time for **you**. So go with your gut and prepare to take that next step.

What do you do after you decide? Just like Michael Scott can't just declare bankruptcy, you can't just decide your school and do nothing. Let the school know and **pay your deposit to confirm your spot**.

What's next? Schedule your orientation and continue applying for scholarships. If you need help deciding, talk to your parents, college admission officers, and your school counselor.

Pro-tip: Don't shop for your dorm room until you know the size and layout of your room!

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FINANCIAL AWARDS—HOW MUCH MONEY AM I REALLY GETTING?

The financial award letters are arriving daily in the mail and students and parents are confused by the jargon, stressed about the balance at the end of the page, and families are making decisions that will make an impact on the rest of their lives and the lives of the student.

First, do not feel rushed. Take your time and read the paperwork carefully. Call the financial aid officers with any questions. Most financial aid officers are very friendly and want to help families determine what is the most efficient way for a student to pay for college. Remember, this is a business and they want you on their campus.

Secondly, do not always look at what college gave you the most money. Also look at what is included in the college tuition. For example, some college provide laptops and other provide laundry services and yet others provide nothing but offer more money. It is important to look at the overall cost of going to college and not just the tuition. Items such as

gas and food if you are commuting or room and board if you are on campus are costs that each family must take into consideration before making the final decision.

Each family needs to sit down at the table, place each reward letter in front of them, and then place a college comparison checklist in front them and determine which school the best education option. Write down pros and cons for each school and make a list of items that you feel you will need that may cost additional money outside the tuitions. If you need additional college comparison checklists, they are available on the Guidance website.

School counselors and financial aid officers are here to help. We will have a meeting **Wednesday, April 3rd from 5-6 on financial award letters and answer questions**. This will be right before Parent University.

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- ◇ Review your transcript and complete your credit check sheet.
- ◇ Communicate with your counselor if there are errors on your transcript or if you are not meeting graduation requirements.
- ◇ If you have decided on your COLLEGE, MILITARY BRANCH, or CAREER OPPORTUNITY, complete the blue form and return to the Guidance Office. More forms available in the Guidance Office. This information, along with your picture, will be posted in the Senior hallway.
- ◇ It is not too late to apply to college...many colleges are still accepting applications.
- ◇ If attending college, complete your FAFSA as soon as possible.
- ◇ If you have been accepted to college, return to Naviance, click on “Colleges I am applying to” and edit your application from unknown to accepted.
 - ◇ If the college is requesting your “Mid-Year Report”, please see your counselor. Acceptance into the college of your choice may depend on this report.
- ◇ Visit the Guidance Website for SCHOLARSHIPS...the list and applications are updated weekly.
 - ◇ Remember that it is OK to turn scholarships in EARLY!!
- ◇ Check out Career Postings on the Guidance Website, listed under “Career Resources” and “Employment”.
- ◇ If interested in the Military, schedule an appointment with a recruiter.
- ◇ If you haven't already, order cap and gown through Jostens.com.
- ◇ Order yearbook.