

## College Quick Checklist – 2015-2016

### College Selection: September - October

- Consider more than one variable in your school choice.
- Visit the schools you will apply to. Most schools have open house dates or scheduled visits
- College Fairs:
  - Penn State Beaver – Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>; 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Gymnasium
  - La Roche College, Monday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016; 6:00-8:00 PM; Kerr Fitness and Sports Center
  - Duquesne – Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>; 1:00-3:00 PM, AJ Palumbo Center
- College reps visit Freedom High School
- State schools, private schools, out of state schools
- Consider admission criteria (SAT scores, GPA etc.)
- Use your resources: ask teachers, ask people working in your field of interest, internet searches

### Applying: September - November

- Go to the colleges' website and apply online
- Once you have applied, ask Mrs. Brenner to mail your High School transcript (she can mail fees and recommendation letters with your transcript if you wish). Some universities use the Common Application and SEND EDU program where information will straight to the Counselor's email!
- Recommendation letters: send them if requested or optional. Don't send them if not required. Give your reference person time to write the letter
- Applying timeline. As soon as possible – after November is getting too late

### Financial Aid: February - March

- PHEAA is here 6pm Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – ask your parents to attend. PHEAA representative: Wendy Dunlap: 724-831-7317; wdunlap@pheaa.org
- FAFSA must be completed ASAP after 1/1/16: [FAFSA.ed.gov](http://FAFSA.ed.gov) The FAFSA also serves as your application for Federal/State grants. **Important!** Different schools have different FAFSA filing deadlines. Complete your FAFSA before the deadlines!!!
- Scholarships: Most are awarded by the schools students attend ([www.meritaid.com](http://www.meritaid.com)); do a **free** scholarship search ([www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)); Google search scholarships; check with Mrs. Brenner or Freedom H. S. Website for a current list; most "local" scholarships will be available in the winter/spring.
- College Loans can be taken out in the summer before you attend school. [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov)