Countdown to Graduation

Class of 2018

A Handbook for Senior Year

PIONEER

HIGH SCHOOL

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Tentative Senior Calendar: Class of 2018

Summer 2017	Schedule senior portraits now. You can email your senior portrait to the yearbook at pioomega@aaps.k12.mi.us or turn it in at the General Office. Deadline for submission of yearbook pictures is Oct. 20th @ 3PM. If you prefer to use SchoolPictures.com for your senior picture, they will be available during the August registration to take your picture. Yearbook picture information is included on page 15.
Sept. 5, 2017	First Day of School
Sept. 13, 2017	Senior Parent Night: Large Auditorium: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM (re: college and application process) Capsule Night: 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Sept. 15, 2017	Last Day to drop/add PHS classes; CR/Online Deadline
Oct. 1, 2017	First date to submit FAFSA (Federal Application for Federal Student Aid). Early application=more $$$ if you meet the federal standards for financial aid.
Oct. 13, 2017	Last Day to request a letter of recommendation from your counselor for schools with an early action deadline of Nov.1, 2017. (Includes U of M)
Oct. 20, 2017	Last day to turn in Senior Photos for inclusion in the Yearbook.
Nov. 21, 2017	Last Day to request a letter of recommendation from your counselor for schools with submission deadlines between Jan.1 - 15, 2018.
Jan. 11, 2018	Financial Aid/Scholarship Information Night: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM: PHS Annex
January 2018	Gap Year Fair. Information can be found at: usagapyearfairs.org
May 1, 2018	Deadline for a student to accept an offer of admission to the college of his/her choice
May 7-18, 2018	AP Testing Dates
May 18, 2018	Senior Prom @ UM
May 29-31, 2018	Senior Culminating Activities
June 1, 2018	Last school day for seniors
June 7, 2018	Graduation Rehearsal @10am. Graduation @ 6pm. (EMU Convocation Center)

Counselor Assignments

2017 -2018
Grades 9th – 12th

A-Ch	Dorvia Thomas-Hill (734) 994-2149 (thomashilld@aaps.k12.mi.us)
Ci-G	Kevin Kilgore (734) 994-2188 (kilgorek@aaps.k12.mi.us)
H-K	Sara Vance (734) 994-2131 (vance@aaps.k12.mi.us)
L-O	Colleen Creal (734) 997-1944 (creal@aaps.k12.mi.us)
P-So	Stephanie Carter (734) 994-2124 (carters@aaps.k12.mi.us)
Sp-Z	Christopher Kasper (734) 994-8229 (kasperc@aaps.k12.mi.us)

Counseling Secretary: Mrs. Brianna Wright
(734) 994-4434

12th Grade Principal: Mr. Jason Skiba
12th Grade Secretary: Mrs. Ann McFall
(734) 994-2141, Room C-311

PHS Records Office: Mrs. Deidra Banks
(734) 994-2133

Checklist for Applying to College

Simple steps for applying to college are included below for your quick reference. If you need more information, please refer to the listed pages.

- ☐ Request letters of recommendation from core academic teachers, but only for colleges that require teachers' letters of recommendations. (See p. 7)

- ☐ If applying to college(s) using the Common Application, then complete your part of the Common Application online **first** before inviting your counselor to complete a school report/recommendation through the Common Application system. (See p. 8)

- ☐ If applying to any college(s) that does not use the Common Application, then complete and submit a "Non Common App Routing Slip" to the counseling office. (See p. 8)

- ☐ Complete and submit any supplemental forms required by certain colleges. (See p.7)

- ☐ Pay application fee for each college application. (Contact counselor if you may qualify for an application fee waiver). (See p. 6)

- ☐ Send standardized test scores to colleges. (See p.7)

- ☐ Send transcript to colleges. Most colleges will also require a mid-year transcript (after 1st semester of senior year also known as 7th semester grades). A final transcript as well must be sent to your final college of choice after senior year is over. (See p. 7)

- ☐ Be aware of college application deadlines. (See p. 9)

Things to Consider Before You Apply to College

- ✓ Complete Student Profile and Parent Brag Sheet. The Student Profile is required before your counselor can write a letter of recommendation. Extra profiles and brag sheets are available in the Counseling Office if you have misplaced them. Please keep a copy of the completed forms for yourself. We are unable to make copies.

- ✓ Counselors recommend researching and applying 3-5 colleges. Go to the college's website, click on "undergraduate admission" and follow the directions. There are computers available in the counseling office, Media Center, and Career Center for you to use for this purpose.

- ✓ If your application requires teacher recommendation letters, please allow a minimum of 3 weeks for each teacher to complete a letter. Usually, these letters are completed online or mailed by the teacher to the college.

- ✓ Application fees can vary for each college from $25 to $100. Most colleges will accept an online credit card payment or a check mailed to them. If your family has a limited income, then see your counselor for help with application fees.

- ✓ Many colleges visit PHS to recruit students. Try to attend college visits in the fall in the Career Center for any colleges you are considering. Listen to the morning announcements or go on the Career Center's website for upcoming visit information (www.pioneercareercenter.weebly.com). The admissions office representative who visits PHS is the person who will help make the decision about admitting you. Make a positive impression by being attentive and asking thoughtful questions.

- ✓ Attending in-state schools may save money, especially for students contemplating graduate school. Tuition may be significantly less than the cost of out-of-state schools.

- ✓ Washtenaw Community College (WCC) offers excellent two-year programs which allow students to easily transition to a four year university. Go to wcc.net.edu for the application. WCC will contact applicants to set up an orientation.

IMPORTANT: Please review your transcript included in this mailing and let your counselor know if you find something incorrect. We like to correct any issues before the transcript is sent off to colleges this fall.

The College Application Process

Send Transcript via www.parchment.com	Send ACT scores via www.act.org	Send AP & SAT scores via http://student.collegeboard.org

Frequently Asked Questions:

Ranking: Pioneer does not rank.
Weighted GPA: Pioneer has a weighted GPA.
Number of Students in Class of 2018: 417
Application Fee Waivers: Request a fee waiver from your counselor.
PHS Address:

Pioneer High School
601 West Stadium Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

- **Application Deadlines:** Make note of the application deadlines. **You must allow at least 15 business days before the deadline for your counselor to complete his/her part of the application.**
- **Supplemental Forms:** Look at each college website carefully to see if they require "supplemental pages" along with their regular application for admission.
- **Transcripts from Previous Schools:** If you DID NOT attend Ann Arbor Public Schools for grades 9-11, request your transcript from your previous school through parchment.com or see your counselor. Middle school transcripts may be required to verify math and language credits.
- **Teachers' Letters of Recommendation:** Provide your teachers with a self-addressed stamped envelope so they know where to send your letter. Or, enter each teacher's email address in the online application and a link will be automatically sent to them for completing the recommendation online.
- **Counselor Letter of Recommendation:**

Does your college application require a letter of recommendation and/or a school report from your counselor?

If the answer is NO: Submit your application, fee, transcript, and test scores to the college.

If the answer is YES: Enter your counselor's email address on the online application system (i.e. Common Application) and a link will be automatically sent inviting your counselor to complete a recommendation and/or school report. If you are applying to schools not on the Common App, you must fill out a Non-Common App Routing Slip (found on p.8) and turn it into the Counseling Office.

Types of Applications

THE COMMON APPLICATION

The common application website allows a student to fill out one online application that can be sent to a variety of chosen colleges. Over 700 colleges accept the common application. Please remember to check each college's website to see if any "supplemental forms" (pages) are required in addition to the common application. Common Application website: http://www.commonapp.org

OTHER ONLINE APPLICATIONS

Some colleges will have you fill out an online application through their website directly while other colleges may use the Common Application, SEND edu, or the Universal College websites for their applications. Some colleges will have you do YOUR part of the application online, but want you to print a paper copy of the counselor recommendation and/or school report and turn it into your school for completion.

PAPER APPLICATIONS

Some colleges will give students the option to "download a PDF" of the application and print it out. If a student chooses this option, then he/she will need to fill out the application with blue or black ink and write legibly. If the application does not have a section requiring completion by the school counselor, then go ahead and mail in the application to the college along with a check for the application fee.

NON-COMMON APP ROUTING SLIP

For any college application outside of the Common Application, including both online application systems and downloaded paper applications, you must complete and submit a "Non Common App Routing Slip" to the "routing slip" box in the counseling office. The slip will then be directed to your counselor and used for important communication and record keeping purposes. A sample of the "Non Common App Routing Slip" is included below for your reference. Routing slips are available in counseling.

Non-Common App Routing Slip: Mandatory Information for Counselor

Name: _____ Date: _____

I am applying to the following schools that are NOT on the Common App:

1. _____
   I applied to this school online and it requires a counselor recommendation:
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No
2. _____
   I applied to this school online and it requires a counselor recommendation:
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No
3. _____
   I applied to this school online and it requires a counselor recommendation:
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No
4. _____
   I applied to this school online and it requires a counselor recommendation:
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No

If there are supplemental forms for your counselor to fill out, you must attach them to this page.

Dates and Deadlines for Applications

****YOU MUST allow 15 business days for your counselor to process your recommendation and/or School Report. Please pay attention to the processing deadlines listed below for your reference. It is the responsibility of the student to know these deadlines.**

PHS College Application Deadlines for 2017-18:

September 18, 2017:
First day counselors begin processing college applications.

October 13, 2017:
Must submit any paper forms to your counselor or email counselor for online recommendation in order to process application for a November 1st deadline.

Tuesday, November 21, 2017:
Must submit any paper forms to your counselor or email counselor for online recommendation in order to process application before Winter Break for January 1st-15th deadlines.

What's the Difference?

EARLY ACTION

Students who opt for "Early Action" at certain colleges are guaranteed an admission decision by a specific date. For example, some colleges will give applicants a decision by late December if an applicant submits an application by the November 1st Early Action deadline for that school. This is not a binding agreement.

EARLY DECISION

Students who opt for "Early Decision" for certain colleges need to know that it is a binding agreement. For example, if a student opts for this and turns in his/her application by the specified "Early Decision" deadline, then he/she must attend that school if accepted by admissions. Please see your counselor if you need help making this decision.

Submitting a Transcript to Colleges Through Parchment

Colleges will require students to send in their high school transcript for the admission process. Please follow the directions below for submitting your transcript to colleges.

1. Go to www.parchment.com

2. Click on "Transcripts".

3. For first time users, create an account by clicking "Create an Account" at the top of page. Then, click on "Learners/Parents".

4. Fill in registration information for a parchment account. (*Parents will need to create the parchment account if student is a minor under 18 years old.)

5. After creating your account, you will be directed to "add a school or organization". Type in Pioneer and other requested information. The computer will then do a search. Add "Pioneer".

6. On the next page, enter your "enrollment information" and click on "consent and request".

7. After completing the above request(s), you will arrive to a page titled "You can now get your credentials". It will state, "your transcript is "pending" (PHS needs several days to upload the transcript). Go ahead and select "order".

8. The next page will be titled: "Select a Destination". Type in the college name in the search box and then select "search". Select the college of your choice from the list.

9. The next page is "Order Details". Select "when" you want the transcript sent. Then, select "save and continue" or you can add another college by selecting "add another destination".

10. At the next page, you will "review your order" and then select "save and continue".

11. It will take you to the next page where you will "provide consent" by signing your name electronically and typing in your parent's name. Then, select "save and continue".

12. The last page will ask if you need to "track your order". If the answer is "no", then select "I'm done".

National Testing Options

1. The SAT I

The SAT I is an internationally recognized college admissions test that consists of four parts: Reading, Writing and Language, Math and the optional SAT Essay (not optional when taken in April during Junior year with the MME at PHS). The SAT takes 3 hours and 50 minutes with the SAT essay or 3 hours without the essay. The test is administered seven times per year at test centers around the country and world. Nearly all selective colleges require the SAT and ACT as part of their admission decisions. The score scale consists of a range of 400 to 1600 (for the new SAT). The SAT website is (www.collegeboard.com).

2. The SAT II

The SAT II: Single Subject Tests are one-hour tests measuring specific achievement in 23 subject areas such as foreign languages, mathematics, science, and history. Selective colleges may require one or two of these tests in addition to the SAT I. Please check with each college for specifics. Seniors applying to any college on an early decision or early action plan are advised to take the SAT II tests no later than early November.

3. The ACT

The ACT is a college admissions test administered six times per year in test centers throughout the country. The test consists of five sections: English, math, reading, science and an optional writing section. Students receive a score for each section plus a composite score ranging from 1-36. Refer to the official website for more information at (www.act.org).

4. Advanced Placement Exams (AP)

Advanced Placement Examinations are available in May each year for students who completed specific AP courses. PHS offers specific AP courses in US History, American Government, French, German, Latin, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Statistics, Calculus, and English. AP exams are not required for college admissions but may be used by some colleges for college credit or for placement in advanced courses. AP exams are given from May 7th-18th. Students will register online in March. The fee for tests in 2017 was $130 per test. Partial Fee Waivers are available through your counselor.

College Bound Athletes / NCAA Eligibility

For students interested in playing a sport at the Division I or Division II college level, begin by registering with the NCAA Clearinghouse at this website: www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/how-register

Here is a quick checklist of tasks that need to be done to reach eligibility:

- ☐ Register at the NCAA Clearinghouse. (Payment Fee = $75 for US citizens)
- ☐ Take the ACT or SAT and submit scores to the NCAA.
- ☐ Send a copy of your transcript (through parchment.com) to the NCAA using Code 9999 when registering. Also, send a final official transcript as well at the end of high school.
- ☐ Complete all required courses.
- ☐ Earn a grade point average and test scores that meet eligibility requirements.
- ☐ Graduate from high school.

Course Requirements for Division I:

- ✓ Complete 16 core courses:
  - ✓ Four years of English
  - ✓ Three years of Math (Algebra 1 or higher)
  - ✓ Two years of Natural/Physical Science (including one year of lab science)
  - ✓ One additional year of English, math, or natural/physical science
  - ✓ Two years of social science
  - ✓ Four additional years of English, math, or natural/physical science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- ✓ Complete 10 core courses, including seven in English, math, or natural/physical science, before seventh semester. Once you begin seventh semester, you may not repeat or replace any of the10 courses to improve your core-course GPA.
- ✓ Earn at least a 2.3 GPA in your core courses.
- ✓ Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale, which balances your test score an core-course GPA. If you have a low test score, you need a higher core-course GPA to be eligible. If you have a low core-course GPA, you need a higher test score to be eligible.

See NCAA website for Division II requirements, which are similar but less restrictive than Division I.

Alternatives to College

Some students decide not to enter a four-year college or university immediately after high school graduation due to a variety of reasons. In fact, some may want to wait a year or two before committing to a college and a program of study. Many positive alternatives exist for these students that can lead to successful careers and eventually higher learning.

Trade School

Trade Schools specialize in training students in skills needed for a specific field. Students will receive certification and job leads upon graduation. The following website offers great information about trade schools and other careers (http://www.trade-schools.net/). At this website, go to "Trade Schools Directory" with a list of the following job fields and careers:

- **Automotive, Plumbing, Electrician, Aviation, Travel & Tourism, Real Estate, Media Arts, Technology, Cosmetology, Business, and Interior Design.**
- Students may search by field and state to gain access to specific schools' web-sites.

Enter the Work Force

Working for a large company in an entry level position or starting a small business can help shape a student's vision for his/her career path and field of study at college. Many websites exist for job hunting and the Metro-Detroit/Ann Arbor area holds several job fairs throughout the year. (www.Michiganworks.org).

Volunteer

Students who possess a passion for community and love "hands-on" projects may want to consider investigating the following opportunities:

- **AmeriCorps (www.americorps.gov)**

The Corporation for National and Community Service which allows students to make a difference through hundreds of programs throughout the U.S. which address the critical needs of struggling communities. Students may earn up to $4,725 to pay for college.

- **City Year (www.cityyear.org)**

This program unites young people (18-24 yrs.) of all backgrounds for a year of full-time service, giving them the skills and opportunities to make significant differences in the lives of children and communities across the country.

- **Student Conservation Association (www.thesca.org)**

This program offers jobs and internships throughout the U.S. (18 years and older) relating to the environment.

(Continued on next page)

Alternatives to College (Continued)

Travel

Students may want to discover and explore other countries and their cultures through travel experiences. Consider exchange programs, working on a cruise ship, or working as au pair or nanny for a family in another country. The following website offers information on jobs outside the U.S. (http://www.quintcareers.com/cool_unique_seasonaljobs.html)

Military

Some students may want to consider service in one of the five military branches (**Army, Marine Corp., Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard**). The military offers young people opportunities in travel, professional skill building, career opportunities, higher education, self-discipline, leadership, and self-discovery. Qualified service members can receive more than $70,000 in college tuition as well. The following website will help students and their parents weigh the opportunities and benefits of military service. Additionally, this web-site also links to each military branch: "Things to Know Before Serving"
www.todaysmilitary.com/before-serving

- Most of the military branches visit the PHS Career Center throughout the school year.
- Students are also encouraged to visit the **PHS Career Center** (located across from the cafeteria). **Mr. McLouth** coordinates the information regarding many of these opportunities and programs.

The Gap Year

Parents and students may refer to The Complete Guide to the Gap Year by Kristin W. White for many specific ideas and programs to do between high school and college. Taking time between high school and college to pursue interests or to complete service work can help many students solidify a vision for their future.

Graduation-Related Information

Cap, Gown, Tassel, etc.

PHS uses Jostens to sell all graduation items. They visit the school during the first semester to distribute and explain their catalog to seniors. Orders are taken and delivery of items occurs during the second semester at PHS. All caps, gowns, and tassels must be ordered through Jostens. The price for a cap gown and tassel last year was $36. Measurements will be taken when the order is placed. Be sure to try on the cap and gown when it is received to ensure a correct fit! Let the senior grade level office know immediately if a problem exists with your gown. Bobby pins are needed frequently to hold the cap to the head. Keep track of your tassel; it's often easily lost or misplaced!

Commencement Ceremonies

Commencement will be held at Eastern Michigan University's Convocation Center on Thursday, June 7, 2018. There are no ticket requirements or number restrictions. If there are family members needing special seating and/or parking, please call the senior class office at least two weeks in advance. Expect to receive a letter from the Principal reviewing the dress and behavior codes.

All Senior All Night Party

The ASAN is for all graduating seniors after commencement. It is organized and chaperoned by parent volunteers. Please consider volunteering to assist with this special event. An incredible amount of time, energy, creativity, and money goes into this party. Student tickets initially cost $40, the prices go up as the year goes on. Plan ahead and buy your tickets early!

Senior Behavior

Poor behavior and bad choices may lead to significant consequences. Suspensions, cheating, fighting, substance abuse tickets, etc. can affect graduation status and college acceptance. Students must be mindful of their actions!

Yearbook Pictures

Senior pictures for the 2018 Omega Yearbook are due in the general office by 3 PM on Friday, October 20, 2017. All senior portraits must be in color or black and white. The yearbook is in color so it's recommended that students submit a picture in color. Pictures should be full face and shoulders, no hands, no hat, or extra objects. All pictures will be cropped so they are head/shoulder shots only. Students who do not wish to be pictured in the yearbook must let OMEGA know in writing.

2017/2018 Testing Information
Pioneer CEEB Code: 230088

ACT

Test Date	Deadline	Late Fee
Sept. 11*+	Aug. 4	Aug. 18
Oct. 28*+	Sept. 22	Oct. 6
Dec. 9#*	Nov. 3	Nov. 17
Feb. 10#*	Jan. 12	Jan. 19
April 14#*	Mar. 9	Mar. 23
June 9#*+	May 4	May 18
July 14	June 15	June 22

#Pioneer Test Center **191910**
*Huron Test Center **177670**
+Skyline Test Center **235370**

Register Online: www.actstudent.org

SAT I & II

Test Date	Deadline	Late Fee
Aug. 26	July 28	Aug. 15
Oct. 7 *	Sept.8	Sept. 27
Nov. 4* ^	Oct. 5	Oct. 25
Dec. 2#	Nov. 2	Nov. 24
Mar 10 # +	Feb. 9	Feb. 28
May 5 #	Apr. 6	Apr. 25
June 2 #	May 3	May 23

Test Center Code 23-110
Pioneer
* Huron
^ Language with Listening
+ SAT I only

Register Online: www.sat.org

PSAT October 11, 2017 Pioneer, Huron & Skyline

Advanced Placement Dates May 7 - 18, 2018