



**South Baldwin**  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

**COLLEGE BOUND HANDBOOK**





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## INTRODUCTION TO THE HANDBOOK

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Welcome to South Baldwin Christian Academy! Just think, within 4 years, you will be a high school graduate and attending college somewhere! We want this to be an exciting time for you as you follow God's path, create great memories, and develop friendships that will last a lifetime. We also want to work with you and your parents to make sure you are on track for graduation and getting into college.

The following includes some information to help guide you on your road to college. It is separated by year: 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th. Every year, make sure you have completed each item on your checklist, and by the time you hit your senior year, we pray you will be over-prepared and confident for your college transition!

*Dear Lord,*

*Please guide me on this exciting road to college. Help me to listen to the advice of my family, counselor, teachers, youth pastor, and pastor. Help me discern Your will for my life. Lead me to a college campus that will prepare me for a career, but also one where I can be a light for You. Help me to know that You have a plan for me and if I keep my eyes on You, You will catch me if I fall. Thank You, Lord, for the wonderful talent You have given me and allow me to use it for Your glory.*

*In Jesus Name, Amen*

## 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CHECKLIST

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Here are a couple of REALLY IMPORTANT pointers to keep in mind as you enter into high school years:

- Start a filing system at home first thing this year and add to it throughout high school collecting paperwork regarding:
  - Community service activities, hours, dates
  - Honors and certificates awarded (honor roll, highest grade in class, most outstanding student, etc.)
  - Positions held in clubs or sports
  - Conferences or mission trips attended with dates
  - Dates of employment
- College applications and scholarship applications will ask you for these items and details. Get a large manila envelope to keep this information in.
  - Start exploring your interests and careers through <http://mystudentedge.com>.
  - Tour a nearby college you may be interested in.
  - Start using the internet in general and <http://mystudentedge.com> to explore college websites.
- Enroll in the most rigorous college-prep courses offered at South Baldwin Christian Academy.
- Make good grades. Your grades in 9th grade go on your official high school transcript that will be submitted for college applications and scholarships.
- Get involved in meaningful extracurricular activities both in school and out of school.
- Talk with your parents about planning for college expenses. Continue or begin a savings plan for college.

## 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CHECKLIST

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Now you are a sophomore! We're sure by now you're in the swing of things and loving high school! Remember, keep that GPA up!

- Think about taking AP courses or any honors courses available.
- Continue being involved in activities outside the classroom. Do meaningful community service and keep a log of your hours.
- Work toward holding leadership positions in your activities.
- Consider taking the ACT for practice and exposure, but you may choose not to send the scores to any college. Register at <http://actstudent.org>.
- Read as many books as possible and keep up-to-date on current events.
- Continue exploring career options.
- Tour another college campus.
- If you are interested in attending a military academy, start planning now.
- Attend college fairs.
- Make your summer productive: go on a mission trip or volunteer.
- Consider taking college classes through Faulkner State College's Accelerated High School Program.

## 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CHECKLIST

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Wow, it seems like just yesterday you were new to this high school thing! Now you are one of the veterans! Keep up the hard work. You will see it pay off with a great score on your ACT this year!

- Keep your grades up. Even if you have not done well, work harder now. Colleges appreciate an upward trend in your grades.
- Using <http://mystudentedge.com>, explore colleges. Find information on admissions procedures and requirements, tuition and fees, room and board, course and major offerings, accreditation and financial aid.
- Continue exploring your interests and career options.
- Create a college information and correspondence filing system. A binder with individual folders works great, or an accordion file.
- Compile the following information on a resume (create on <http://mystudentedge.com>).
  - Volunteer/Community Service Activities/Leadership Conferences
  - Honors and Awards
  - Leadership Positions Held
  - Sports Accomplishments
  - Employment
  - Hobbies
  - Mission Trips
  - Extracurricular Activities
  - Academic Awards
- Prepare and register early (late summer or early fall) for the ACT test. You can access registration deadlines and test dates at <http://actstudent.org>. Take it in October or December. If you are not satisfied with your score, register again to take it in April or June.
- Visit any available college fairs.



- Consider taking online college classes through the Accelerated High School Program through Faulkner State College.
- Consider taking college classes for college credit alone.
- Discuss with your parents the colleges you are interested in, their locations, and the financial costs.
- Start applying to colleges in the summer using their online applications.
- Have your school send a transcript to each college you apply to by turning in a transcript request.

## 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CHECKLIST

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You have arrived! Congratulations! By now, you should have your college entrance testing behind you, your community service hours almost complete and documented, and some applications already on their way to colleges. You are feeling pretty good! You'll see a change this year as you set your sights on collegiate goals.

- There are several things that will cost you money your senior year:
  - Plan to order and pay for the mandatory graduation supplies from (rental graduation robe, graduation cap, tassel).
  - Plan to pay for your Senior portraits.
  
- Remind your parents to plan for the "This is Your Life" table.
  
- Continue keeping all college information and correspondence in an organized filing system.
  - Mark your calendar with deadlines for admissions, financial aid, and scholarships.
  
- You have one last chance to take the ACT on the October test date to get your results back to meet most scholarship deadlines in December. Register early for it! (<http://actstudent.org>).
  
- Get college applications completed by November 1st to meet early decision deadlines and scholarship deadlines. Make copies of all applications you send out. Follow up with the colleges to make sure your applications are complete.
  
- Continue taking the most advanced classes offered and keep your grades up
  
- Males: register for selective service (<http://www.sss.gov>) on your 18th birthday to be eligible for federal and state financial aid.
  
- After January 1, fill out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>, using the previous year's tax return your parents have filed.





- Colleges require you to have the FAFSA completed in order to receive:
  - Grants
  - Student Loans
  - Institutional Scholarships
  
- Check with colleges to determine if there are additional forms the college requires you to file. Admissions and financial aid deadlines are often different, so be sure to meet each requirement.
  
- Check out <http://mystudentedge.com> or <http://www.fastweb.com> for possible scholarship opportunities.
  
- Shoot for a final college choice by May.



## TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM

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Student Name:					
Date Submitted:					
<i>Please send my official high school transcript to the following college/university:</i>					
Institution Name:					
Complete Mailing Address:					
City:		State:		Zip Code:	
<b>FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY:</b>					
Transcript Sent Date:					