

# PHASE

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Getting your teen ready to graduate is a HUGE task and can be daunting. The Youth Ministry wants you to know that we want to help in any way possible. We hope this sheet helps with some of the logistical stuff to free up more time for you to invest spiritually in your teen. Here are a few tips and suggestions given by parents over the years. If you have anything to add please let me know! Remember, the youth ministry is praying for you and your teen during this time and if we can help in any way don't hesitate to ask!

We've also included a Phase Card that explains how your teen is developing and what you can do to help your teen in this Phase of their life.

## **Scholarship Hacks**

- Starting during the student's freshman year, start keeping a list of all of the extracurricular activities they participate in. Remember to keep track of all of the community service work they do. Even if it a part of an extra curricular like scouts or honor society, keep track of what they did and how many hours were volunteered. This is a huge part of scholarship applications and will help tremendously if you have kept a record.
- Have your student create an email address to use for all college and scholarship related communications. Begin using it the first time they register for the ACT, fill out an application or anything related to college. This will keep their personal email account safe(er) from college spam. Also, make sure you have the password and check the account regularly.
- Don't be tricked into signing up for scholarship websites. Your email will never be the same! Some of these are international scholarships, and your chance of getting one is so slim it's not worth your time (in my opinion).
- Read the fine print on scholarship applications. There's nothing more frustrating that spending time on an application & essay only to find out you didn't qualify for the scholarship to begin with.
- The financial aid night that CHS holds is very informative. I suggest going your teen's Jr year, and then again Sr year (especially if this is your first child to graduate). They give out a ton of info. here!

## **Life Hacks**

- Get a calendar to keep track of various college and scholarship related dates and deadlines. Put it somewhere where you and your student will see it every day.
- Go through photos the summer before their Sr year. You'll need photos throughout their childhood for multiple different things (yearbook page, church Sr night, Sr night for any school activities, etc.), and if you've already sorted out your favorites, it will be so much easier.
- During their Jr year, make a list of general life skills needed to live "on your own" (laundry, preparing meals, grocery shopping, car maintenance, banking, cleaning, etc.). Go over this list with your teen & highlight the ones they don't know how to do. Plan a date (and put it on the calendar) to teach this skill & then make them practice it over the next several months.
- Try not to over schedule their last year at home. You're going to be tempted to try to plan a bunch of "lasts," but don't. There will be plenty of activities scheduled for you, and if you add more you'll be exhausted and not enjoy the year.
- Many people do Sr pictures the summer before Sr year. This is so they can use these photos for the yearbook spot which is due in Sept. If you have other photos to use for the yearbook, there's no need to break your neck to get the pictures taken over the summer.
- If your teen is going to move away from home after graduation, make a list of things they'll need (extension cords, coffee maker, etc.). (Pinterest has a ton of lists for dorm life.) Start buying these throughout the year so that you don't have to drop a bunch of change come 2 weeks before they move out.
- You can have your senior register at some stores for college dorm items and that way when Christmas and birthdays come around, you can share it with relatives and close friends.
- Don't stress. Take it one day/event at a time. Your teen will most likely be stressed about all of the impending changes, and your ability to remain calm and not be a basket case will be a tremendous help. :)