

College Planning Timeline

11th Grade

Fall

- Continue to work hard.** Your GPA will be finalized at the end of junior year!
- Update your resume.** Use the Naviance Resume Builder to help you.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT.** In October of junior year, you will take the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.) If you score in the top percentile of the country, you could qualify for scholarships through National Merit.
- Register for an ACT or SAT Prep Course.** If you have not already taken a course, do it now! There are tips & tricks to help you master standardized tests. The more you practice, the better your scores will be.
- Register to take the SAT or ACT.** See the testing calendar on page 13 to see when the exams are offered. Ideally, you should complete your standardized tests by end of junior year. You must register yourself on their websites: www.act.org or www.collegeboard.org
- Attend College Fairs.** Meet the college admissions representatives and create relationships with the colleges you are interested in. Remember that these individuals are likely to be the one reading your applications next fall!
- Ask about Fee Waivers** Fee waivers are available for those who qualify for AP exams costs, SATs, ACTs & college applications, so ask your counselor if you qualify.
- Tour College Campuses.** Visit colleges that you are interested in by attending Open Houses and tours throughout the year. Be sure to meet the admissions counselors.

Winter

- Attend College Information Night** Usually held in January
- Schedule a family meeting with your school counselor.** Starting in January, your counselor will schedule individual time to meet with you and your family to discuss the college admissions process.
- Create a college List.** Using Naviance, complete a search and save schools to your “Colleges I am Thinking About” list.
- Research scholarships.** Check out the Scholarship Bulletin which is posted on Naviance & the Counseling Center website.

Spring

- Finalize your resume.** You will need your resume for college applications, scholarships and letters of recommendation.
- Brag Sheet and Letters of Recommendation.** Complete your Brag Sheet and give it to your counselor so they can write the best letter of recommendation for you. Make sure you ask 2 teachers if they would be willing to write a letter for you.
- Start to think about your college essay.** Plan out what topic you want to write about. Get a rough draft started
- Create a Common Application account.** Create your account & be sure to write down your password and username. After August 1, you can start to complete your applications.