

College Planning Timeline Eleventh Grade Parents

Fall

- Throughout the year, keep the College Information folder that was started last fall up-to-date.
- Discuss your child's college preparation progress with teachers and counselors.
- If your child does not have a Social Security card, go to SSA.gov to learn about obtaining one. While many private scholarship resources don't require them, your child will need a Social Security number for state and federal aid.
- Together, attend a college night or college fair.**
- Together, take a tour of a local college while classes are in session to get a feel for the campus.**
- Together, begin researching scholarships at your target colleges.**
- Together, familiarize yourselves with the costs of college: tuition, fees, housing, food, and supplies.**
- Together, keep updating the College Information folder you started freshman year.**
- Schedule a day or an overnight trip to visit nearby colleges. The goal is to explore different types of schools. Aim for variety. Discuss what your child likes or dislikes about the schools. Visit colleges during fall break.**

Winter/Spring

- Together, carefully plan the schedule for the spring SAT Reasoning Tests (and Subject Tests, when relevant). Subject Tests can be taken as soon as the your child has completed the related coursework.**
- Together, plan the schedule for the spring or early summer ACT with Writing exam.**
- Register 6-8 weeks ahead to get best practice exam dates and locations. Remember to take into consideration AP exams in May.**
- Study your child's PSAT scores so that you will be aware of areas that need strengthening as he or she prepares for the SAT.
- Ask your child's counselor about fee waivers for the ACT or SAT. Eligible students can receive up to two waivers.
- Use on-line tools such as the FAFSA Forecaster (fafsa4caster.ed.gov) to estimate potential financial aid and your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).
- Make summer plans. Make sure your child will have a productive summer.
- Consider and plan spring vacation college visits.

Summer

- If planning a summer vacation, include a college tour.
- Together, begin actively searching for scholarships and financial aid.**
- Together, continue college visits while classes are in session.**
- Together, use the Preferred Colleges Research Checklist to create a list of target schools and keep track of their various admission requirements.**
- Mark your calendars with important deadlines for applications and financial aid.**
- Together, register now for ACT, SAT Reasoning or SAT Subject Tests in the fall. Early registration will ensure availability of the best locations and dates.**
- If your child plans to participate in Division I or Division II college sports and wants to be recruited, he or she should register with the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse during the summer of junior year.