

Four Year Planning Calendar

A Guide for Students & Parents

Ninth Grade

All Year:

- Achieve at your highest level, with ample use of supports available!

Fall:

- Participate actively in the meetings your counselor will hold to help you get oriented and adjusted to school. See your counselor to head off problems!
- Get involved in activities which interest you, such as clubs, sports, community service (Key Club), or other community activities. Try a variety of things but be willing to make a serious commitment to at least one or two major activities as the year progresses.

Winter:

- As you continue to achieve well in courses, be thinking about the courses which will help you advance: consider applying to Honors offerings if you are ready.

Spring:

- Participate actively in planning your schedule for sophomore year and choose courses which will challenge you.
- If you are interested, talk to your counselor about some of your ideas for after high school. You may want to take an interest inventory to help broaden and deepen your self-awareness.

Tenth Grade

All Year:

- Continue to achieve at your highest level! Stay in touch with your Counselor as necessary.
- Build your base of experiences outside the classroom: have some things going which are major commitments and feel free to try some new things. Take a moment now and then to reflect about what these experiences are doing for you.

Fall:

- Stop in to see your counselor, maybe to talk a little about careers or to take a career interest inventory if you would like some structure to help you develop some ideas.

Spring:

- Develop a strong program for Junior Year, given your strengths and weaknesses.
- Continue to learn about yourself, what you like, what will help you succeed, what kinds of people you want to study and live around, with some thought about how this will help you plan steps after high school.
- Use our Naviance system to do some college research or to do a college search entering criteria that are important to you. Click on the Naviance link on the homepage to access the system.
- Create a collegeboard.com account.

Eleventh Grade

September:

- Sign up for PSAT and review information and sample test to prepare.
- Check out representative visits throughout the fall -- great way to find out about many schools!

October:

- Take PSAT and analyze your results with care to prepare for future SAT tests.

November:

- Research options, either through contacts, readings or in some cases visits.
- Consider using a search program in consultation with your counselor to develop a preliminary list of schools to research.
- Attend a College Visit, Open House, or College Fair- Find out about schools, get contact information and begin developing files of schools which are interesting.

December:

- Review PSAT results.
- Develop your SAT and SAT Subject Test plan.

January:

- Schedule a formal family conference with your counselor to individualize plans sometime between this point and April.

February:

- Plan for some formal campus visits during the spring and summer, depending on your personal calendar.

March:

- Register for May and June SAT and SAT Subject tests based on your personal testing plan.
- If you have not done so yet, schedule a conference to review college options and procedures.

April:

- Continue research, visit and exploration process.
- Schedule your Senior Year classes with your counselor. Be sure to be applying for AP classes and Honors.

Eleventh Grade Continued

May/June:

- Take the SAT or SAT Subject Tests as appropriate.
- Complete a Brag Sheet, may several copies of it, and give one to your counselor.

Summer:

- Continue research and visiting process, aiming to bring your list down to an appropriate range, typically with 6 - 12 possibilities for final consideration.
- Collect catalogs and application materials.
- Consider preparing a rough draft of your personal statement.
- Begin researching scholarship opportunities if necessary -- do one or two on-line scholarship searches.

Twelfth Grade

September:

- Senior Guidance: Counselors will review fall testing procedures and application procedures for seniors.
- Register for October/November testing as appropriate.
- Meet with your counselor if you are planning early decision application.
- Continue to research; meet with college reps who visit.
- Review your transcript.
- Start working on applications and scholarships.

October:

- Take SAT or SAT Subject Tests if appropriate.
- Refine your list in consultation with your counselor -- we want everyone to end up with choices come spring!
- Register for December and January SAT or SAT Subject Tests as appropriate.

***Watch deadlines: organize yourself to meet each school's requirements.

November:

- Take SAT or SAT Subject Tests as appropriate.
- Continue research, visits, interviews.
- Keep working on applications.

December:

- Take SAT or SAT Subject Tests if appropriate.
- Be sure to submit transcript requests and related info by December 1 for those colleges with January 1 deadlines and by December 15 for those with January 15 deadlines.
- If possible, finish up all your applications at this time.

January:

- Finish any required testing.
- Complete financial aid forms: FAFSA, any individual college forms and the CSS Profile Registration form if any of your schools require it.

February/March/April:

- Let the good news roll in!
- When you make your final decision, let all schools know.
- Revisit campuses if you need to choose.
- Complete applications for local scholarships.

May:

- Enjoy making your final choice from a number of great options!!!