

College Planning Timeline

Freshman Year

• Challenge yourself with appropriate courses

• Seek extra help when needed

• Get involved!

• PSAT in spring

Sophomore Year

• PreACT in spring

• Continue to do your best

• Find ways to be involved in service and leadership activities

Junior Year - Fall

• PSAT/NMSQT in October (Student can qualify for National Merit

Awards)

• Results of PSAT to students in December. Link to

khanacademy.com for personalized test prep for spring SATs

• Utilize the resources available through College Board http://www.collegeboard.org (My SAT Study Plan, My Online Score Report, My College Matches, My Major and Career Options/

MyRoad). A code to access these resources is in the bottom right hand corner of the PSAT score report.

• Sign in to Naviance Student. It is the best website for college exploration because it compares you to other students who have gone through the college application process.

• Begin work on Junior Project—don’t wait until the due date is close!

• Take challenging courses and earn the best grades that you can. Your GPA at the end of junior year is the GPA that will be sent to colleges.

• Build relationships with your teachers. You will want to ask two teachers to write you a letter of recommendation in the spring.

• Plan your testing dates for the spring SAT and ACT

• Go to college representative visits to learn more about local colleges

• If you are considering University of Maryland, College Park, check out the Coalition application and start working on collecting your information

Junior Year - Spring

• Make an appointment with your counselor to discuss senior year classes and plans (come prepared!)

• Register for SAT Reasoning Test/SAT Subject Tests/ACT/TOEFL (online)

• Think about the classes you like the best and consider potential college majors

• Research a variety of colleges for your junior project using Naviance as a starting point

• Make arrangements to tour college campuses

• Talk to two teachers about writing recommendations

Summer Between Junior and Senior Years

• Continue to research and visit colleges

• Compile a list of potential colleges and request applications

• Write a rough draft of your college application essays…you won’t regret it!

• Start working on the common application online https://www.commonapp.org/ if you are applying to common app colleges

• Find an interesting job / travel opportunity / research position / volunteer opportunity

• Study for the SAT/ACT! The more time you spend the better your scores will be.

• Register in August for the October SAT or ACT.

Senior Year – Fall

• Finalize a comprehensive list of schools (6-8 colleges is typical)

• College counselor (Mrs. Scarborough) will meet with all seniors in September to discuss plans and options. Parents are welcome to make appointments to discuss options.

• Students must list all colleges they are applying to in Naviance and Common App if applicable

• Begin applications –online at https://www.commonapp.org/ for Common App schools or through the college’s individual website

• Go online to www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org to have your testing scores sent directly to the colleges to which you are applying, if you did not already have them sent when

you took the test (Many colleges require official score reports sent directly from the testing centers—check their admission website to be sure what they require. Some will accept scores on your transcript

—if so, be sure to request that I include your scores.)

• Work on your essay(s) at home; if you need a proofreader, see Mrs. Scarborough

Senior Year – Winter

• Financial Aid Forms (FAFSA form at fafsa.ed.**gov** – not fafsa.com!!) need to be completed starting October 1, using the last full year of tax returns. The CSS Profile is needed for some schools- must be done online-at www.collegeboard.org

• Complete all applications well before the due date—waiting till the last minute can be an issue if the computer does not process your application in time due to high demand

• 1st semester grades are sent to colleges

• Begin Scholarship search – Info available on Naviance for many scholarships

• Keep an eye on the Senior bulletin board outside Mrs. Scarborough’s office—lots of local scholarship info posted there

Senior Year – Spring

• Decisions from colleges will arrive throughout the course of the spring

• Weigh options and select a college

• Send deposit to school of your choice – May 1st is the Universal Decision Day. Notify those schools you do not plan to attend.