

## Timeline for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- \*Meet with your guidance counselor- map out coursework for college prep
- \*Try a variety of extracurricular activities
- \*Learn how to type and use a personal computer-essential
- \*Start a filing system-store important documents for college like transcripts, awards, articles, summer programs, and jobs, scholarships, art/writing portfolios, resume and other important papers.
- \*Create a college journal- keep track of contact info for colleges, record thoughts and feelings about the college process.
- \*Think about your college major and career- see Mrs. Balaban for career interest survey!
- \*Talk to parents about paying for college  
websites: [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)  
[www.allaboutcollege.com](http://www.allaboutcollege.com)  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)  
[www.scholarship.com](http://www.scholarship.com)
- \*Make a list of colleges
- \*Check out college web sites
- \*Create a resume
- \*Attend college fairs
- \*Take PSAT or PLAN in 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- \*Take AP Exams
- \*Plan for the summer- participate in college sponsored summer programs. (So many to choose from.)
- \*Visit college campuses
- \*Volunteer

## Timeline for 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:

### September:

- Register for the PSAT
- Talk to guidance counselor about SAT and ACT test
- Plan for standardized tests
- Form a study group for tests
- Make a list of your top ten colleges
- Attend college fairs

### October:

Take PSAT  
Request information packets from colleges  
Research scholarships and note deadlines

**November:**

Talk to your parents about funding college  
Research financial aid

**December:**

Talk to your coach about college-level sports and scholarships  
Discuss your PSAT scores with your guidance counselor  
Research summer programs and jobs

**January:**

Update your filing system  
Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss goals for the spring.

**February:**

Apply to summer programs  
Request recommendations for summer programs

**March:**

Take practice tests  
Get ready for test dates  
Register for ACT test – if taking

**April:**

Study for AP Exams  
Visit Colleges during Spring Break  
Register for SAT test- if taking  
Sign up for summer courses

**May:**

Ask teachers to write college recommendations for senior year  
Take AP exams  
SAT/ACT tests

**June:**

Take SAT Subject Tests  
SAT/ACT tests  
Begin drafting essays for college application

**August:**

Decide whether to retake any tests  
Update resume

## Timeline for 12<sup>th</sup> grade:

### September:

Narrow list of colleges

Meet with your guidance counselor

Decide on applying early to schools

Make list of deadlines for applications, financial aid, scholarship and tests

Ask teachers for recommendations

Make copies of all your applications and file them

Start submitting applications

Know deadline of your school's applications due date

### October:

Ask teachers to review your application essays

Start interviewing

Register for and file the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE form

Note college application due dates-check schools' dates

SAT/ACT tests

### November:

Get the FAFSA form through [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Note college application due dates

SAT/ACT tests

December:

Write thank-you notes

Study for finals

Note college application deadlines

SAT/ACT tests

January (Scholarship Season):

File tax returns

File FAFSA

Make sure your 7<sup>th</sup> semester grades are sent to colleges

Note college application deadlines

Search scholarships

February:

Call admissions offices to make sure applications are complete

Make sure financial aid applications are complete

Note college application deadlines

Search scholarships

March:

Review acceptance letters

Ask the Financial Aid Officer of your college to reconsider your financial aid package if necessary

Work on getting into waitlist schools

Search scholarships

April:

Make a final decision and notify your college of choice

Decline your other offers

Send in deposits and all necessary forms to your college

Complete loan applications

Search scholarships

May:

Set up a financial plan for next year

Take AP Exams

Graduation!!!