



COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE for ...

Grade 12 SENIORS

This year is a busy and extremely important one for you. Researching and applying to college(s) can be both daunting and baffling to the uninitiated. Don't let it frighten you. Take comfort in the fact that thousands (perhaps millions) of high school seniors have preceded you and have been successful. This is a manageable process; you will survive. You just have to be prepared and persistent and you will persevere.

FALL

- August/ September - **Register for or Reactivate NAVIANCE** accounts.
- August/ September - **Register for SAT and ACT** tests.
- **Meet with your counselor** to discuss the list of colleges to which you're thinking of applying to be sure your list includes colleges appropriate to your academic and personal record. Provide an update on any work done over the summer.
- **Request teacher letters of recommendation**, especially if you are applying early. Send a thank you note when they do write one.
- **Continue to visit campuses and interview** with college admissions representatives.
- **Make sure you have all the applications required for college admission.** Write, phone, or email to request missing information, or apply online whenever possible. Create an account with The Common Application if the colleges you've selected use it.
- **Organize your college information.** Set up a filing system.
- **Start working on your application essays.** Compose rough drafts of the essays you'll need for your college applications. Have a teacher read and discuss them with you so you can see what to

work on. Make any revisions to your application essays and prepare final drafts.

Don't forget to proofread your final essays a few times.

- **Know application deadlines** for the schools and scholarships you wish to apply to. They may vary and it is **essential to meet all deadlines!** Follow all directions carefully.

SPRING

- **Keep working in your classes!** Grades and courses continue to count throughout your senior year.
- **Submit all required financial aid forms** required by each college. (Check each college website)
- Submit applications for various scholarships.
- **October/ November - Narrow and finalize** your college choices.
- Be mindful of all deadlines.
- **Maintain high grades.** Many colleges will request to see your mid-year grades.
- **Register with NCAA** if you intend to play a division 1 or 2 sport in college.
- Once accepted to all colleges or by May 1st, **make final decision** as to which college you will attend.
- **Notify the counselor of your final decision** so that a final transcript can be sent.
- **Avoid senioritis!** An acceptance letter doesn't mean you can stop working.