

COLLEGE PREP GUIDE

FRESHMAN

- Begin taking challenging courses.
- Develop good study habits.
- Develop a 4-year academic plan.
- Join activities that will accentuate your leadership potential and service (volunteer) recognition.
- Maintain good grades. REMEMBER: Freshman year grades will be on your transcript, and these grades will be figured into your GP A.
- Select appropriate 10th grade courses.
- Attend a college fair.
- Visit the Guidance Office to learn about various careers.
- Plan meaningful summer activities.

SOPHOMORES

- Continue to take courses that challenge you to be a good student.
- Update 4-year academic plan.
- Be certain you are fulfilling all course requirements to graduate
- Continue working hard to get good grades.
- Take the PLAN Test. This test is a "preliminary" or practice ACT (college entrance exam) test which measures the same academic skills as the ACT.
- Explore, gather information and discuss college options.
- Begin to research some college choices.
- Select appropriate courses for 11 th grade.
- Attend a college fair.
- Plan meaningful summer activities.
- Over the summer begin looking ahead to the PSAT Test (given to juniors) and how to prepare for it. This test is the preliminary scholastic assessment test, and also the national merit scholarship qualifying test. Scoring very well on this test can qualify you to compete as a national merit scholar, and which opens scholarship opportunities for college.

JUNIORS

- Continue working hard to get good grades. Your best chances for admission to college and receiving scholarships depend on your academic record.
- Meet with the guidance counselor.
- Take the PSAT Test.
- Begin thinking about your college needs. Read college guides and research colleges. Go to college fairs.
- Take a Career and College Search.

- Attend a College Planning Meeting with parents.
- Register to take the SAT and/or ACT early in the spring. Most four year colleges require scores for either the ACT or SAT 1. You may take either test as often as you wish. Colleges will use your highest score.
- The ACT Test is offered in October, December, February, April and June. You can register at www.actstudent.org.
- The SAT I & II is offered October, November, December, January, March, May and June. You can register at www.collegeboard.com.
- Make college visits.
- Review 4-year academic plan, graduation and college entrance requirements.
- CAREFULLY select senior year courses. Most colleges want a copy of classes taken during the senior year.
- Take AP exams in May if applicable.
- Choose meaningful summer activities.
- During summer, work on college essay.

SENIORS

- Continue to work hard to get good grades
- If necessary sign up for the first ACT or SAT Test in October. This will ensure your test results will be provided in time for your college applications.
- Meet with the guidance counselor.
- Fill out student information sheets to be used for Counselor recommendations.
- Continue college visits.
- Finalize list of college to apply to.
- Complete college applications in the fall.
- Ask teachers to write recommendations and provide them with the necessary forms and envelopes.
- Continue scholarship search.
- Complete financial aid and scholarship application forms. If you are applying for financial aid, you and your parents need to complete the F AFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon after January 1 as possible.
- Choose a college. Double check deadlines for admission, housing, and financial aid.
- Notify Guidance Office of all college decisions.
- In spring receive decision letters. Make a final decision.
- Don't develop "senioritis" - colleges have been known to revoke admissions.
- In May take AP exams if applicable.
- In June-GRADUATION. You made it!!!