

# College Planning Timeline

## 10th Grade

### Fall

- ☐ **Meet with your School Counselor.** Your counselor knows how to help you get the most out of high school. Discuss your goals and post-high school plans with them.
- ☐ **Get involved!** What you do outside the classroom is important. Explore the various sports, clubs and volunteer opportunities available to you. Colleges want to see that you have a sustained commitment to the activities that are important to you.
- ☐ **Work hard.** Every grade you earn will be on your transcript, so work hard and do your best.
- ☐ **Start a resume.** Keep track of all of your accomplishments and involvement throughout high school. Use the Naviance Resume Builder to help you.
- ☐ **Take the PSAT & Practice ACT.** In October of sophomore year, you will take the PSAT exam. It will provide you with valuable feedback on your college readiness and help you prepare for the SAT.

### Winter

- ☐ **Take assessments on Naviance.** Your counselor will be helping you to use Naviance to explore your interests, strengths & weaknesses, and colleges of interest.
- ☐ **Attend College Information Night.** Every January, the Counseling Center presents new and updated information regarding college admissions. Attend each year to help you and your family stay on track in your planning.
- ☐ **Explore summer opportunities.** Look for a job, internship or volunteer position that will help you learn more about a field of interest.

### Spring & Summer

- ☐ **Create a testing plan.** Start to think about the SAT & ACT. Talk to your counselor about your plans so they can advise you on when you should start to prepare and take standardized tests.
- ☐ **Research scholarships.** While the biggest scholarships usually come from the colleges themselves, some smaller private scholarships are available to all high school students.
- ☐ **Tour College Campuses.** Visit colleges to get an idea of what type of campus you are interested in.
- ☐ **Register for SAT or ACT Prep Course.** Summer is a great time to start preparing for standardized tests. There are tips & tricks to help you master standardized tests. The more you practice, the better your scores will be.
- ☐ **Register to take the SAT or ACT.** See the testing calendar on page 13 to see when the exams are offered. Ideally, you should complete your standardized tests by end of junior year.