

College Planning Timeline

9th Grade

- ❑ **Create a four-year high school plan.** Think about what interests you and what classes you would like to take. Try to challenge yourself.
- ❑ **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 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.
- ❑ **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.