

12th Grade Timeline

Fall

Academics and Activities

- This year is the culmination of all your hard work. Make sure you end as strong as possible!
- Check with your counselor to make sure that you are on track.
- Continue to challenge yourself in the classroom. Take classes that count!
- Take Honors, AP, University, or Community college courses to get college credit.
- Keep staying involved in extracurricular and volunteer activities.
- Try to run for a position in a student organization, if you are able.

Testing

- Register for your SAT/ACT if you haven't already, take it again to increase your score.
- Best scores are usually achieved by the second time you take an exam.
- The most popular test date for Seniors is in September.
- Counselors can help you find Fee Waivers. You can take up to 2 ACTs and 2 SATs for free if you qualify for a fee waiver!
- Taking these tests earlier in the year allows colleges to view your scores, which can help in the admissions process.

College Applications

- Go to the college fairs offered in your area and start visiting colleges, if you are able to. Plan out event dates in your calendar!
- Make a list of qualities which are important to you in making your college decision.
- Create a set of questions based on those qualities. Meet with admissions counselors and ask all of your questions.
- If you can, try to meet with current students and/or alumni at the colleges. What do they like and dislike about their college?
- Create a list of pros and cons for each college on your list. Factor in expense, scholarship opportunities, and majors available.
- Create a list of safety, match, and reach schools to apply to.
- Apply to the colleges you are interested in, which also meet your needs.
- Ask yourself: can I see myself attending this college? Finalize your list to 5 to 8 or 10 colleges.
- Write, rewrite, and edit your application essays.
- Have your counselors, teachers, siblings and/or parents/guardians help you review and edit your college admissions essays!
- Review our Essay Tips handout for scholarship and admissions essays on our website here: tiny.cc/CDessaytips
- Check and record the deadline for each application (deadlines may be in January, February, or March, depending on the school).
- Make sure to write down the requirements for each application.
- Complete and submit all applications (keep two copies of your applications for your records).
- Submit Early Decision or Early Action applications.
- Make sure to ask teachers, coaches, leaders, and counselors for recommendation letters. It is best to let them know you need a letter at least 1-2 months in advance of the application deadline.

FAFSA®

- Students will be able to file a 2022-23 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2021. Students will be able to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1st every year but check with your academic institution for deadlines. If applicable, use your 2021 taxes to complete the FAFSA.

Winter

Transcripts and Application Confirmation

- Contact the schools you applied to, make sure all your materials are in and processed.
- Talk with your counselor to get your Midyear transcripts sent to the schools you are interested in.

Scholarships

- Keep filling out scholarship applications! Keep a list of upcoming dates and deadlines and check back.
- Those deadlines are passing fast, make sure you give yourself time to process and complete all requirements.

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Spring

Review Financial Aid Packages and Acceptance letters

- After the FAFSA is complete watch the mail for your Student Aid Report (SAR), make corrections and submit it.
- Check for acceptance letters, this is the fun part, be excited!
- Get your financial aid packages in the mail and compare them!

Make the Decision

- Make the choice that is best for you, and make it before the May 1st deadline!
- If you are deciding between colleges you haven't visited yet, try to visit before you make your decision!
- Review websites of the schools you have been accepted to and try to reach out to students who attend there now.
- Ask college admissions' staff to connect you to students with similar interests attending their schools.
- Make a list of pros and cons for each school you have been accepted to.
- Submit your registration documents, deposit checks and signed financial aid award.
- Inform the schools you aren't going to that you will not be attending (let them down gently).

School

- Focus on ending strong! You're almost there.
- If you took AP classes, sign up for and start studying for AP tests.
- Study hard for finals and do well. Go to graduation, take pictures, congratulations! You earned it!

Summer

Final Transcript

- Send your final high school transcript to your college. If you filled out the proper paperwork, the school should have sent it. Check.

Keep volunteering and/or working and build your resume

- Continue volunteering, get a job, or go back to a previous summer opportunity.
- Having a strong resume upon entering college will help you be prepared for other job or internship opportunities.
- Remember to keep polishing your resume.

Summer Classes

- Consider taking some summer classes at a community college, or seek out a summer program for incoming college freshmen.
- Get a jump start or stay sharp in your learning.

Register for fall college classes

- Research the general requirement classes your college requires.
- Look at the requirements for your major and see if any classes can be used as general requirements and major requirements.
- Look at reviews of professors to decide which classes to register for.

Prepare your college book list

- Figure out which textbooks can be bought online and which ones you will need to buy from the school bookstore.
- Look into buying used textbooks or renting instead of buying. You can also resell textbooks at the end of the year.
- In some cases, it may be best to wait until your professor gives specific instructions for textbooks.

If you are going to live on campus or away from home:

- Pack, pack and pack! Make sure that you have necessities which will make life away from home easier.
- Think about expenses try to shop sales, consignment, and thrift stores!
- Every little bit helps and make it easier to pay tuition next year!

Keep reading

- Continue reading about things you may want to study or take classes in. Read books, magazines, and newspaper articles.
- Keep checking out books from the library!