**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 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!