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## College Planning Timetable

### Junior Year

#### Fall

- Attend college fairs and begin gathering information about colleges.
- Take a leadership role in your council. Set a goal to accomplish something in your council that will have a lasting impact on the Academy community.
- Read the PSAT/NMSQT Student Bulletin. Take the October PSAT.
- Attend college information sessions with college representatives at The Academy.

#### Winter/Spring

- Register for Naviance.
- Create a standardized testing calendar. Your goal is to have taken the ACT and the SAT at least once before June, and to take SAT Subject Tests in June, if applicable (discuss which subject tests you should take with your counselor and your academic teachers)
- Consider your goals for the college application process by exploring your strengths and weaknesses. Be honest with yourself!
- International students should make plans to take the TOEFL exam and make sure to meet with both the college counselor and the international student coordinator. International students will likely take this exam multiple times.
- Begin to identify your wants for a college. This includes potential majors, geography, size, diversity, etc.
- Discuss your senior year schedule with your college counselor. It is important that you take the most challenging course load you can realistically succeed in.
- Develop a preliminary list of colleges and research those schools by visiting their websites and requesting information.
- Attend college fairs and speak with representatives.

- Create a list of schools and speak to your college counselor, your teachers, alums, your family, and members of the community who might have knowledge of your schools. Begin gathering stories from people about their experiences in college.
- Begin considering which teachers you would like to ask for letters of recommendation.
- Finalize an initial list.
- Register for the NCAA Clearinghouse if you think you might try to participate in Division I or II college athletics. Contact coaches (including Division III) to let them know of your interest.
- Parents should attend the college counseling information night.

### Summer

- Either have a summer job or find a volunteering opportunity in an area you might wish to explore in college.
- Visit schools. If you feel prepared, schedule an interview. Note that not all schools offer interviews, and schools that do offer interviews might not offer them until they have received your application.
- If you plan on pursuing athletics, meet with coaches if possible.
- International students should look into what schools require for proof of finances.
- Keep your eyes open for the new Common Application, usually available in late July. Begin completing it.
- Keep your mind sharp by reading the news, books, magazines, etc. Stay engaged in “the news of the world”, and also read as much as you can.
- If possible, schedule a meeting with your college counselor for over the summer.

### Senior Year

#### September

- Meet with your college counselor as soon as you get back to school.
- Meet with college representatives at The Academy.
- Review your initial transcript.
- Register for October/and or November SAT/ACT tests in September.
- Set a goal for finalizing your college list.
- Ask teachers for recommendations and submit an Academy recommendation form to both the teacher and to the college counselor.
- Work on your college essays in your Senior Humanities course.

- Begin exploring opportunities to interview.

#### October

- Meet with your college counselor to discuss where you are with the process so far.
- Attend college fairs and college representative meetings. Schedule interviews if possible.
- Continue to work on your college essays and share them with your college counselor.
- Decide if you want to apply EA or ED to any college.
- Register for the December SAT/ACT tests, if necessary. Typically, this is the last test date colleges will consider for regular admission.

#### November

- Meet with your college counselor to discuss where you are, and also to review your Common Application.
- Your final list of schools should be completed by November. Make sure your college counselor has a full list of your schools and make sure that your Naviance page is up to date.
- Early Action and Early Decision applications are typically due in November. Pay attention to these dates!
- Contact schools to set up interviews.
- Continue to refine your college essay. Share it with teachers, friends, family, and community members.
- Use the Thanksgiving break to complete any remaining applications.

#### December

- Meet with your college counselor. Your goal will be to send in all of your applications before we return from winter break. This month will seem incredibly short, so having a solid plan is essential so that you can enjoy the holiday break.
- Submit your SAT, ACT, and/or TOEFL scores officially. You will have to do this via the testing company.
- If you're using the Common Application, be sure that you have completed the supplements for each school that has one. Share your written responses with your college counselor.
- Schedule interviews at prospective schools if you haven't already.
- Meet with friends who are home from college. Get their impressions on the experience so far.

#### January

- If you are applying for financial aid, have your parents complete the FAFSA. Do this as soon as possible.

- Check with your college counselor. Has everything been sent?
- Work hard in your courses! Your midyear grades will be sent to colleges.
- Keep on checking that mailbox if you applied early. Let your counselor know of schools where you were accepted, rejected, or deferred to regular admission.

#### February/March

- If you applied for financial aid, make sure that you have received an acknowledgement from FAFSA.

#### April

- Review all acceptances and rejections with your college counselor. It is imperative that your counselor is informed of any schools that have moved you to their waitlist.
- If possible, visit your school of choice before making your final decision.
- Once you have made your choice, make sure to notify the schools you will not be attending. This will help those schools open slots on their waitlist.

#### May

- Notify your counselor if you wish to remain on a waitlist.
- Remember that your final transcript gets sent to colleges, so don't lose focus on your academics.
- Meet with your college counselor one last time to clean up your Naviance page.