**FALL**

* Maintain and improve grades during your junior year.  Grades can make the difference in whether or not you receive scholarships and grants.
* Register and take the PSAT in October. Your junior year scores can be used for National Merit Scholarship consideration.
* Begin researching colleges. Look at websites, search sites, online campus tours, student reviews.
* Take a career assessment to begin exploring a major or a career you would like. Some include:
	+ <https://www.vawizard.org/wizard/careersAssess>
	+ <https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>
	+ <https://www.yourfreecareertest.com/>
	+ <https://www.princetonreview.com/quiz/career-quiz>
	+ <https://www.actprofile.org/>
* Get involved if you haven't already! Attend club meetings or consider joining a sports team. Look for volunteer opportunities.
* Make sure you are getting to know your counselor, they are a huge wealth of college and career information
* There have been increasing concerns about how students' social media image could be affecting their college and employment prospects. Check out the considerations and tips [here](https://deepruncounseling.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/4/0/11402309/online_caution.pdf) and [here](https://deepruncounseling.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/4/0/11402309/online_caution_2.pdf) to be more social media savvy!

**WINTER**

* Take a free practice test for the ACT and SAT to see on which test you perform better. Sign up for a prep class if you are taking the early spring exams OR use the free resources online at Khan Academy and ACT Academy.
* Fee waivers for standardized tests are available for students check with your guidance counselor to see if you qualify.
* Investigate scholarship and financial aid options. Discuss your family's financial resources and review plans for financial aid.  Attend Financial Aid Programs
* Continue researching colleges and universities that interest you. Make a list of your Top 10. Decide which colleges that you might like to visit and prepare questions for upcoming tours.
* Review the admissions requirements for the colleges that interest you and make sure you are taking the appropriate courses to meet their entrance requirements. Make a timeline of deadlines to remind yourself when things need to be sent in.

**SPRING**

* Look for a summer job, volunteer opportunity, or other enriching experience to boost your resume
* Register to take the SAT ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org/)) and/or the ACT ([www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org/))
* Continue to research colleges and universities that interest you. Use a search tool like Big Future ([https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/)). Make a list of your top 10.
* Visit those colleges and attend college fairs.
* Get on college mailing lists so you can be notified if admissions reps will be holding any info sessions or attending any college fairs nearby
* Create a professional email address that you will later use for your applications
* Think about which teachers you would want to write a college recommendation letter; give them a heads up that you will be asking them in the fall

**SUMMER**

* Continue to review catalogs and admissions information from your top-choice schools
* If you are planning on taking the SAT or ACT again in the fall, begin reviewing or take a prep course
* Brainstorm and outline a few essay ideas.
* Create a resume of your high school activities and recognitions
* Create a binder or spreadsheet to keep all of your information and application forms organized
* Begin working on your applications before the stresses of senior year kick into full gear. Save all your application account usernames and passwords in a safe place!