



APPLICATION TIMELINE

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Freshman Year

The main focus this year is to choose high school classes that appropriately challenge the student and to try new and/or continue with sports, activities and service work that interest and inspire the student. **Have fun and explore the wide range of options that high school has to offer.** Try new things and make new friends. Freshman year is when a firm foundation for academic and non-academic pursuits is established. It's also the time to confirm a 4-year high school plan that will meet graduation requirements as well as the Minimum Academic Preparation Standards (MAPS).

Sophomore Year

This is the year to develop a standardized testing plan as well as establish a time management strategy to stay organized. It's also the time to reflectively consider what the student loves, which classes, instruments, sports and community involvement really resonate. **Find a thing or two you love? Pursue a leadership role in that thing.**

Junior Year

This is the year to not only step it up in coursework, but to nail those grades. **It's the last full year of academic performance and activity involvement that the colleges you're applying to will have for review.** It's also typically the most demanding year for standardized testing. Nice combination, I know and a ton of pressure. Junior year is most widely accepted as the toughest high school year for the above stated reasons. So this is the year to really hone in to strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes. How does your love for (fill in the blank) distinguish you from your peers?

Senior Year

So, there's a light at the end of the tunnel and you may think you can dial it back. Think again. That said, the goal is to strive for a healthy combination of constructive work and fun. Hopefully you've established a firm foundation from which to springboard! **For most, this is the year when the stress and anxiety of college and the application process really take hold.** There are thousands of college options so try to "get quiet" and reflect on what is truly important to you.