

# To-do-list



## College Planning Timeline

<b><i>Make your College List</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Start researching colleges based on criteria you and/or your family have discussed.</li> <li>● Keep in mind your goals, career interests and location.</li> <li>● Be realistic when building your list.</li> <li>● Your list should consist of a minimum of 5 schools.</li> </ul>	<b>Summer before 11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
<b><i>SAT and ACT</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Do not wait for this and plan to take both!</li> <li>● Students should take the SAT at least three times and the ACT at least once.</li> <li>● Plan on taking your first SAT no later than October or November of your 11<sup>th</sup> grade year.</li> <li>● Be prepared to study, practice and prep for a minimum of 4 hours per week.</li> </ul>	<b>Summer &amp; Fall of 11<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
<b><i>College Essay</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Essay prompts are usually released in February.</li> <li>● Be prepared to revise your essay a minimum of 2-3 times.</li> <li>● Have a teacher, tutor or education professional proofread your essay.</li> </ul>	<b>Summer before 12<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
<b><i>College Applications</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Common App usually opens August 1<sup>st</sup> each year</li> <li>● Do Not Wait! This can be time consuming.</li> <li>● The earlier you submit applications the greater your chances are for acceptance.</li> <li>● Don't wait for SAT/ACT scores. You can report future test dates on your application.</li> <li>● Know the difference between Early Action vs Early Decision.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Early Action is non-binding</li> <li>○ Early Decision is like a pre-commitment. If you are accepted you are required to attend.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>August - October of 12<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
<b><i>Recommendation Letters</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Make a list of teachers, coaches, club advisors, community members who can talk about your character.</li> <li>● Choose people who know you well enough to speak about qualities such as leadership, trustworthiness, commitment, dependability, work ethic, and motivation.</li> <li>● Be sure to get their full name and email address and let them know the recommendation will go to their email from Common App.</li> </ul>	<b>August - October of 12<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
<b><i>Financial Aid and Scholarships</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FAFSA opens October 1<sup>st</sup> every year. Submit early because financial aid is first come first serve.</li> <li>● Many colleges will offer scholarships or financial assistance notices with your acceptance package.</li> <li>● Scholarships take research! Start with big corporations such as Coca Cola, Burger King, McDonalds, Wendy's, Google, Microsoft, GE, and Dell just to name a few.</li> <li>● Regularly check your school's guidance or BRACE department for scholarship opportunities.</li> </ul>	<b>August - December of 12<sup>th</sup> grade</b>