**College Planning Timeline**

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| ***When?*** | ***What students should be*** ***doing . . .*** | ***What parents should be*** ***doing . . .***  |
| 9th Grade | - Become familiar with college requirements, costs and majors- Choose extra-curricular activities that will help you  develop your interests and talents.- Begin a VIP (very important papers) file to keep  notes on activities and awards- Consider attending a college fair with your parents- Begin formatting & building your resume - Plan a productive summer | - Discuss your child’s 4-year-plan and goals- Familiarize yourself with college  admission requirements, costs & financial  aid- Encourage your child to maintain good  grades and pursue activities- Consider attending a college fair with  your child - Discuss summer plans with your child |
| 10th Grade | - Take the PSAT (preliminary SAT) assessment in Oct.- Develop good study skills, and keep grades up- Attend a college fair with your parents- Update your VIP file and resume with current info - Plan a productive summer | - Discuss taking the PSAT in October - Set realistic career goals- Discuss academic goals and expectations  for achievement  - Encourage strong study skills - Attend a college fair with your child |
| 11th Grade | - Attend a college fair in the fall- Take the PSAT in October - Maintain good grades (It’s your last chance to  improve your GPA prior to college applications!)- Plan college visits- Identify the factors most important to you in  Choosing a college – 2 or 4 year school? Location?  Size? Cost? Academic Programs? Campus Life? - Take the ACT and/or SAT - Make a list of colleges to research and consider- Update your VIP file and resume with current info- Plan a productive summer | - Continue dialog with your child regarding  college options- Attend a college fair with your child- Plan time to make college visits- Decide on and discuss your family budget  for college- Remind your child to sign up for the ACT  and/or SAT- Emphasize the importance of maintaining  good grades on the pathway to college  applications |
| 12th Grade | - Attend a college fair in the fall- Take the ACT and/or SAT once more in the fall- Complete college applications in the fall- Compare the colleges on your list, and narrow to  those which best match your needs- Attend campus preview days; continue college visits- Watch for counselor emails for updates and  reminders to stay on track- Submit the FAFSA beginning October 1- After receiving college acceptance letters, make  your final choice. Notify the college(s) by May 1  to accept or decline offers.  | - Assist your child with the college  application process as needed- Remind your child to keep track of  deadlines for applications & scholarships- Plan college visits- Watch for counselor emails for updates  and reminders to stay on track- Submit the FAFSA online beginning  October 1- Discuss options with your child. Ensure  all colleges have been notified by May 1. |