**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. |