***High School Timeline for Applying to College***

\*It is never too early to begin college planning.  Holidays and summer breaks are great opportunities to visit college campuses.  Also, it is helpful to navigate the undergraduate admissions’ websites to learn college specific admissions criteria and freshmen profile statistics of admitted students.

**Freshmen**

* The first step in college planning is to get your self organized. Start with at least 1 file folder where you can store any pertinent documents regarding your academic progress, college planning, volunteering, handouts, etc.
* The second step is to start building your high school resume. Create a resume that you can add to every time you volunteer, win an award, play a sport, etc.
* Create a professional academic email address that both you and parents can access and use it for all high school academic and college communication.
* Enroll in college preparatory courses (Any PreAICE, Honors, AICE, AP or Dual Enrollment course is considered a college preparatory course.
* Maintain excellent academic performance.
* Participate in school clubs and activities and volunteer in the community.

**Sophomores**

* Continue to enroll in college preparatory courses and maintain excellent academic performance.
* Update your high school resume on a regular basis.
* Register and take Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) to prepare for the SAT, which is given in October.
* Consider volunteer opportunities and creating a service project for school clubs or volunteer organizations.

**Juniors**

***Summer***

* SAT and/or ACT preparation.
* Create a list of colleges that interest student.
* Visit college campuses.

***Fall***

* Register and take PSAT/NMSQT, which is given in October.  The PSAT/NMSQT qualifies students to compete for National Merit Scholarships.
* Attend college fairs.
* Modify list of colleges and universities that interest the student.
* Review college admissions criteria.

***Spring***

* Register and take the SAT and/or ACT between January and June.
* Begin Service Academy and ROTC application process.  Students will need to obtain a congressional nomination for the Service Academies.
* Register and take two SAT II Subject tests in areas the student is taking AICE exams at the May or June test date.
* Maintain excellent academic performance as this will be the student’s GPA and class ranking that will appear on college applications.
* Visit prospective colleges.
* Update resume of school activities, honors & awards, and community service from grades 9 – 12.
* Request teacher letters of recommendation for college applications**.**

**Seniors**

***Summer***

* Visit prospective colleges.
* Attend Summer Seminar at Service Academies.
* Update resume.
* SAT and/or ACT preparation.  Student may want to consider a SAT and/or ACT workshop.
* Create a list of college and universities that student will be applying.  Be sure to include admission and scholarship deadlines.
* Begin completing college applications and writing application essays.
* Research scholarship opportunities at the national, local, and college level.

***Fall***

* Register and take SAT and/or ACT if necessary.
* Arrange parent/guardian-student meeting with the School Counselor to discuss college choices.
* Request teacher letters of recommendation.
* Submit SAT and ACT scores from College Board and ACT to colleges and universities.
* Request the School Counselor to send transcripts to student’s colleges.
* Complete and submit all college applications around Thanksgiving (check deadlines for individual colleges)
* Complete scholarship applications.
* Complete Florida Bright Futures application in December.

***Spring***

* Complete Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) starting January 1.
* Provide colleges with updated information, such as your midyear report.
* Evaluate scholarship and financial aid packages from accepted universities to determine the best value for student’s education.
* Submit deposits required for admission and housing at the college you will attend.