

# *College Planning Timeline*

## **Ninth Grade**

- Get involved! Begin to explore extracurricular activities and/or volunteer opportunities. See what sparks your interest.
- Keep track of your involvement: the type of activities, time involved, and leadership. Start building your activity resume with an eye on quality, not quantity.
- Study hard! Your high school transcript begins now—start building a strong one.
- Become aware of NCAA requirements if you are interested in playing sports in college.
- READ! The best way to improve your vocabulary and comprehension is to read a lot. This may help you achieve a higher SAT/ACT score.
- Speak to your counselor about taking SAT II Subject tests.
- Begin to explore the Naviance program.

## **Tenth Grade**

- Get to know your guidance counselor. He/she will play an important role in your high school career and beyond.
- Consider taking the PSAT.
- Continue to explore extracurricular activities both in and outside of school. Try to focus in on a few of them—remember quality of involvement is more important than quantity.
- Continue to keep track of your involvement on your activity resume. Take note of your activities and meaningful experiences.
- If you are interested in attending a military academy, begin to research and get information.
- Start visiting colleges to get a feel for what college campuses have to offer. You don't have to go far:
  - Stony Brook University is a great example of a large state institution.
  - Hofstra, CW Post and Adelphi Universities are ideal mid-sized suburban schools to see.
  - If you are traveling and are passing by a college or university, stop and take a look. You don't have to do an official tour.
- Speak to your counselor about taking SAT Subject tests in June.
- Consider participating in a summer program in an area of interest.
- Start searching for scholarships on Naviance, [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com). Beware of any scholarship search sites that charge a fee.
- Read a book or two for pleasure.

## Eleventh Grade

- Register and take the PSAT.
- Meet with college admission representatives visiting WMHS during your lunch, study hall or after school, and attend college fairs.
- Continue to visit colleges. Check the schools' websites in advance for tour schedules. Make appointments prior to your visits.
- Start the SAT prep program by registering on the Naviance home page. It is a 20 week on-line program and it is FREE!
- Be aware of the SAT/ACT test dates and registration deadlines.
- Take the SAT and/or ACT at least once this year.
- Meet with your guidance counselor in the spring to discuss post-high school plans.
- Request letters of recommendation from two teachers prior to the summer.
- Consider taking SAT Subject tests in June.
- Continue to keep track of your involvement on your activity resume.
- Over the summer, write your college application essay.
- Continue your scholarship search.
- Register for fall SAT/ACT tests.
- Read a book or two this summer.

## Twelfth Grade

- **Fall:**
  - Finalize college list and start filling out applications. Most schools accept the Common Application ([www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)). Check each school's website for application instructions and deadlines.
  - Provide the teachers who agreed to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf with a Teacher Letter of Recommendation Form each time you add new schools to your original list of colleges. Write those teachers a thank you note as a follow-up.
  - Submit a new Transcript Request Form to the guidance office each time you add a new school to Naviance. You must update your list of schools on your Naviance account each time you apply to additional schools. All forms should be submitted at least 15 school days before the college application due date.
  - Finalize activity resume and essay(s).
  - Meet with college admission representatives visiting WMHS and attend college fairs.
  - Sign up for the On-Site Admissions Program if interested in attending college on Long Island.
  - Start submitting applications. Begin with Rolling Admission deadlines and be aware of EA/ED/RD deadlines.

- Go to the Guidance Office to fill out a Transcript Request Form every time you submit an application.
- File CSS Financial Aid Profile if required by any of your potential schools. This usually becomes available in October.
- Take the SAT, SAT Subject tests or ACT for the final time(s).
- Send official scores to colleges directly from testing companies: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) and [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).
- Keep up with all your assignments and get the best grades possible all year. Colleges will receive a mid-year transcript showing grades for every course you are taking in senior year.
- **January:**
  - Submit FAFSA for eligibility for federal financial aid [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
  - If you were deferred admission, submit extra materials to support your application.
  - Check your application status on each school's website to be sure all credentials have been received.
  - Continue to apply for scholarships through Naviance, [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) , and the Three Village local scholarships.
- **Spring:**
  - Try to avoid senioritis! Colleges have been known to rescind offers of admission if there is a significant drop in grades. A final high school transcript will be sent to your school of choice.
  - Let the Guidance Office know of all your decisions and which school you ultimately choose.
  - Speak to your counselor if you were waitlisted by a college that you want to attend.