



College Planning Trail Map



Create a "grown up" email ~ read & understand HS course catalog ~ know you'll be ranked, reported or not ~ build strong study habits ~ explore extracurrics ~ start building HS GPA with just-right level courses that challenge you ~ pay attention to Algebra!

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Keep building that GPA ~ explore colleges & start thinking about future goals ~ Prep & take PSAT in Spring ~ attend college fairs ~ discuss college affordability ~ take free interest inventories to explore career options ~ hone math & writing skills

Take Oct PSAT/NSMQT ~ Prep for ACT or SAT ~ open a Common App acct ~ build a balanced college list ~ use Khan Academy for free SAT prep ~ gain leadership experience ~ keep track of volunteer hours ~

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~ register for SAT, ACT, AP tests ~ research & organize app deadlines for each of your schools ~ write college essay Spring/Summer ~ begin supplemental writing pieces ~ collect materials for any portfolios ~ request letters of rec from 2 teachers ~ complete Brag Sheet for counselor ~ get copy of transcript ~ visit schools & start relationships w/regional admissions rep ~ demonstrate interest ~ resume final draft ~ work backwards: last standardized test in late summer/early fall of SR year ~ attend financial aid info nights ~ use HS web-based college planning software (Naviance, SCOIR) use the HS's *local* data *not* national data for college match ~ internship ~ summer job ~ gather all app materials ~ network ~ explore potential majors & determine requirements ~ scholarship search

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Keep college selection list with open mind for changes ~ keep visiting ~ refine college essay/ personal statement, supplementals ~ last SAT/ACT if applicable ~ Remind teachers about LOR requests from Spring ~ continue scholarship search ~ CSS profile, FAFSA ~ ED, EA, REA, Rolling? ~ ask admissions reps for fee waivers Nov 1st ! ~ send official score reports for any standardized tests (\$) ~ self-reported grade portals ~ Dec decisions announced ~ Jan 1 ~ Feb 1 ~ deadlines

~ Update Naviance/SCOIR et al. w decisions ~ track & negotiate financial aid packages ~ revisit schools: overnights, accepted students day ~ maintain rigor of transcript ~ onboarding ~ deposit day May 1 ~ roommate selection ~ loan applications ~ negotiate dual enrollment credits ~ attend & enjoy prom ~ Know: where you go to college will not define who you are! ~ *cheers to you!*

