

## **College Planning for 9th Grade Student Guide**

1. Get off to a good start! Study hard and turn in all assignments. Get help in classes if you need it.
2. Get to know your teachers.
3. Read, read, read.
4. Begin resume.
5. Think about what extracurricular activities you are genuinely interested in and to which you are willing to commit the time.
6. Find out about summer activities, jobs, or volunteer opportunities that will expand your experience and skills.
7. Take advantage of opportunities to participate in enrichment activities.
8. Keep track of your activities on Naviance, so that you will be able to develop an accurate resume when you apply to colleges.
9. Talk with your advisor and/or college counselor about your career and college goals and which classes will help you reach these.
10. In spring, talk with your college counselor about AP courses.
11. Consider SAT Subject tests in high school.

## **Parent Guide for 9th Grade**

1. Talk to your child about their goals.
2. Keep an eye on your child's grades, get them tutoring if necessary.
3. If you haven't started, begin saving for college.
4. Encourage your child to start a resume on the Naviance system.

## **College Planning For 10th grade**

1. Continue to study hard.
2. Keep open communication with your advisor and college counselor.
3. Continue to keep track of your activities on Naviance - think about which activities you want to focus on junior year.
4. If you haven't already, begin some type of community service.
5. Continue to participate in enrichment activities, including summer programs.
6. Look college catalogs and other materials in the college room attached and library.
7. Visit college websites to look at requirements for admission, different academic majors, and general information.
8. If you know some colleges that interest you, look at standardized testing requirements, including SAT Subject tests.
9. Consider if you want to take SAT Subject tests, and which ones.
10. Explore careers using Naviance.
11. In spring, talk with your teachers and college counselor about AP courses.
12. Register for NCAA if you hope to play DI or DII sports.
13. Search for potential scholarships to use toward college.

## Parent Guide for 10th Grade

1. Continue to keep an eye on your child's grades.
2. If you are visiting an area near a college or colleges, drive through with your child
3. Encourage your child to update resume on Naviance.

## Junior Year Timeline for Students

### *Throughout the year:*

- Visit colleges (Good times to go are during Oakwood school holidays).
- Get involved in some extracurriculars if you haven't already.
- Keep resume updated.

### *September:*

- See if colleges interested in require SAT subject tests.
- Open online CFNC account.

### *October:*

- Give me a list of colleges that you are considering at this point.
- Take the PSAT.
- Decide whether to take ACT or SAT, or both. For the SAT register at [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) and for the ACT register at [ACT.org](http://ACT.org).
- Decide when you want to take your first test. The SAT is offered in December and March and the ACT is offered in December and February. Look at website to see registration deadlines.

### *December:*

- Take ACT and/or SAT if registered.

### *January:*

- Update college list and develop a list of questions to ask at college visits.
- Start looking at college websites for Junior Saturdays.

### *February:*

- Take ACT if registered.

### *March:*

- Register for May or June SAT or ACT. Register for Subject tests if necessary. Ask Mrs. Graziosi if you are uncertain.
- Update resume.
- Register for a CHALLENGING Senior year, not just minimum requirements.

### *April:*

- Ask teachers for letters of recommendation and write them thank you notes.

### *May:*

- Take SAT or ACT this month or in June. Take the SAT subject tests in the alternate month, if necessary.
- Family meetings arranged with student and one or both parents and Mrs. Graziosi.
- Have list of potential colleges for Mrs. Graziosi. Check college website- Need subject tests?
- Register with NCAA if you think you might want to play college sports.

### *Summer:*

- Take SAT or ACT now if didn't in May or SAT Subject test.
- If you registered with NCAA, request that Mrs. Graziosi send them a transcript.
- Consider an academic camp.
- Start college essays when available.
- Update resume with summer activities.
- Search for potential college scholarships.

## **Senior Year Timeline**

### *August:*

- Schedule a family meeting with the school counselor.
- Continue work on college applications.\*
  - \*Note, some college applications are not available till mid-September.
- You can send SAT or ACT scores before you apply. It takes 2-3 weeks for scores to arrive after submitting a request to College Board.
- Email Mrs. Graziosi when you have applied to college and indicate that you have applied on Naviance. If necessary, indicate on Naviance if you are using the Common App for various schools.
- Please inform teachers and Mrs. Graziosi if they should be expecting an online evaluation sheet from any colleges. These e-mails often end up in junk folders.
- Open an account with each school you apply to so that you can verify that they receive all necessary materials. Your application will not be complete until they receive all documents and a deposit fee. If a college does not receive something from Oakwood, inform Mrs. Graziosi.
- Continue to update resume.

\*It can take two weeks or more for colleges to process anything that they receive.

### *September:*

- Continue working on College Applications with the goal of having applications in by the end of the month.
- Check your e-mail on a regular basis. This is the primary mode of communication from colleges.

### *October:*

- Parents- Fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible.
- Retake SAT or ACT or take an SAT subject test, if necessary.
- Start checking scholarship opportunities if you have not already.

*November:*

-Application deadlines are set. Your application will not be considered if it is late.

*January/February:*

-Contact Mrs. Graziosi if you need to apply for any scholarships requiring an interview. We will hold a mock interview for you to gain experience and receive feedback.

*May:*

-Notify colleges by May 1 to let them know if you will be attending their school. If you are attending you will need to give the school a deposit.

-Look at the school website under admitted student to find out about any requirements including placement testing.

**May 1 is not a suggestion. It is a requirement. No deposit = no college.**

*Throughout the year:*

-Continually check into your Naviance account. Here you will be able to access a list of all the scholarships we have on file, find out when college reps are going to be visiting our school, get the dates for upcoming events, find links to career websites and more.

-Search for scholarships.

-Continue to work hard in your classes. Colleges can rescind acceptances if grades drop after an acceptance or if students drop difficult classes after gaining acceptance. Also, you may apply for scholarships and they will want to see strong midyear grades. Furthermore, you may need letters of recommendation from teachers for anything ranging from applications to a school's honors program or any number of scholarships. You want to be sure that teachers can write positive letters.