**CHOOSING A COLLEGE**

Consider the various characteristics that can distinguish one college from another:

* Size
* Location (geographic as well as urban, suburban, or rural)
* Public or private
* Majors offered and flexibility of degree programs
* Type of institution (two-year, four-year, conservatory, etc.)
* Types of degrees offered (associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral)
* Faculty accessibility
* Cost of attendance
* Support services
* Campus activities

When you think about your own goals for college, determine the type of institution that would best meet your needs. Make an informed choice by comparing the features offered by the colleges that interest you.

**FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION**

You can’t afford NOT to go to college! A college education is the single best investment you can make for your future and your career. Don’t miss out because of the expected costs. Financial aid is available in many forms for families who need assistance, and merit scholarships are available for deserving students. The following websites, your high school counseling staff, and financial aid staff at any college or university can help you and your families realize your college dreams.

Finaid.com

Fastweb.com

Fafsa.ed.gov

Collegeanswer.com

Scholarships.com

Many local and state scholarships can be found under the Counseling tab of our High School website: [www.flushingschools.org](http://www.flushingschools.org)

**ADDITIONAL ONLINE COLLEGE SEARCH AND PLANNING RESOURCES**

**SAT – collegeboard.com**

SAT information, test questions, and

planning and financial tools

**ACT – act.org**

ACT information, test questions, and

Planning tools

**Peterson’s – petersons.com**

**US News & World Report ranking-**

**usnews.com**

**The Princeton Review – princetonreview.com**



## College Planning Guide

*How should I plan for college?*

*What classes should I take?*

*When should I plan for college?*

*What are my goals?*

*How much Math should I take?*

*Where can I find more information*?

**For further information, contact your high school guidance counselors at:**

**810-591- 3759**

**12TH GRADE GUIDELINES**



**Keep your grades up!** Many schools review final grades and may rescind an offer of admission if senior year grades slip.



**Take four core classes per semester.**



If you haven’t already, **take the SAT or ACT.**



**Apply for admission by October** to your top 3-5 colleges that interest you. Check websites for application deadlines.



**Revisit the colleges that interest you the most.** Many offer day/overnight visits that enable you to stay with current students and attend class with them.



**Attend a financial aid workshop** with your parents in your local school district.



**Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA,** online as soon as October 1 as possible to apply for need-based financial aid for the following academic year.



When you receive admissions offers, remember to **send in any required deposits.** Deposits are normally refundable until May 1 of your senior year.

**11TH GRADE GUIDELINES**



**Maintain your good grades.** This year is especially important since it will be your grade point average from 9th through 11th grades that college admissions officials will initially review.



**Take a majority of academic courses,** such English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Language.



**Take the SAT or ACT.** If you aren’t satisfied with your initial score, you can retest again in the Fall or Winter of your Senior year. **Pay attention to college requirements.**



Continue looking at college websites. **Narrow down your search** to 3-5 potential colleges.



**Establish an e-mail account** that you plan to use just for purposes of college admissions and check it often.



Start a **comparison worksheet** on the colleges that you might want to attend.



**Visit as many of the colleges that interest you as you can.** It is difficult to judge “the feel” of an institution unless you’ve been on campus.



When enrolling for your senior year courses, **choose at least three or four academic courses per semester.** Continuing with math, world language, and lab sciences your senior year greatly enhances your opportunity for academic success in college.



**Search for potential scholarships** using free online search services such as **fastweb.com, finaid.com** and **collegeanswer.com Most** applications have deadlines so become familiar with those this year in preparation for senior year.

**HOW SHOULD**

**I PLAN FOR**

**COLLEGE?**

You’ve probably heard that a college degree can open many doors for you. It’s true. Has anyone ever described the advantages that going to college can provide? Many careers require a college degree, so attending college will provide you with more career choices. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a college graduate will earn $1 million more in a lifetime than someone who doesn’t attend college. Most important, the people you meet, the experiences you have, and the knowledge you gain from college will impact you for the rest of your life.

One of the most important aspects in preparing to go to college involves effective planning and preparation. Even if you’re not sure about attending college, making the right choices now will keep college success available as an option for you. This planning guide is designed to provide direction and resources to students interested in attending college and is just one tool that you can use in this process. Please refer to the list on the back page for additional sources of information.



**9TH & 10TH GRADE**



**GUIDELINES**

**Work hard** to get good grades. Most colleges will be reviewing your academic performance in 9th, 10th, and 11th grades when making an admission decision.

**Start compiling a notebook** as you research and visit colleges you’re interested in. Keep track of web addresses, high school curriculum requirements, and important dates and deadlines. Make note of what you like, what you didn’t like, and what information you still need while researching colleges.

**Visit the colleges** that most interest you. Talk to current students or alumni of these colleges to get a real idea of what they’re like.

Keep developing **good study habits.** As a 9th grader, you should aim for at least an hour of study each weeknight. As a 10th grader, you should aim for two hours of study each weeknight.



Begin to identify **your areas of academic strength** as well as areas of particular interest or passion.



During the summer**, participate in workshops, community programs, and** **enrichment programs**. Also consider job shadowing to learn more about professions that interest you.



**Explore college websites in greater depth.**

**Recommended Preparation For Success**

**ENGLISH**

4 years strongly recommended

**MATHEMATICS**

4 years strongly recommended

**BIOLOGICAL & PHYSICAL SCIENCES**

4 years strongly recommended

**HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

4 years strongly recommended

**WORLD LANGUAGE**

2 years strongly recommended

**8TH GRADE GUIDELINES**

**Consider taking Algebra I** so you can take precalculus or calculus during your senior year in high school.

Consider taking a **world language course** this year.

**Develop good study habits.** This will assist you in high school as well as in college.

**Visit the websites of colleges** you are interested in and note their high school curriculum requirements.

When planning your high school class schedule, let your guidance counselor know that you want to follow a **college prep program.**