

## College Planning Timeline

### Sophomore Year

#### Winter

- ✓ Activate your Naviance account
- ✓ Register for a College Board account, and keep your login information in a safe place
- ✓ Make sure you have an appropriate email address for colleges to see – Gmail is FREE 😊
  - Some combination of your first and last name, initials, etc, is best
- ✓ Take the “Do What You Are” personality assessment on Naviance and explore your interests based on the Naviance report
- ✓ Register for the Boston National College Fair during Sophomore Seminars
- ✓ Schedule an appointment with your Guidance Counselor if you have questions about course selections

#### Spring

- ✓ Keep your grades up!
- ✓ Attend the College Fair Field Trip in May
- ✓ Plan something fun and/or meaningful for the summer (work, volunteer, camp, college program)
- ✓ Update your resume in Naviance

Note: If you are interested in applying for an NCAA Scholarship for college, please meet with your Guidance Counselor

### Junior Year

#### Fall

- ✓ Stay involved with your extracurricular activities. Have a strong and balanced junior year!
- ✓ **Mid October** take the PSAT at AMSA (scores available in December)
- ✓ Make sure you know how to login to your Naviance account
  - Please see your Guidance Counselor if you need help
- ✓ Attend AMSA **college visits** from college admissions reps
  - Look at list and register on Naviance, you need a pass from your teacher
- ✓ Save graded papers, with teacher comments
  - Some colleges will require these as part of their applications)
- ✓ Gather artwork for a portfolio if you are considering studying art in college
- ✓ Attend AMSA’s **Financial Aid Night** Mid November
- ✓ Attend **Junior Parent Night** on college admissions

#### Winter

- ✓ Prepare for SATs! Enroll in AMSA’s SAT Prep Course offered February-April. This course is highly recommended for students taking the May or June SAT.
- ✓ Register for SATs, Subject Tests, and/or ACTs
- ✓ Update all extracurricular activities since 9<sup>th</sup> grade in your Naviance resume
- ✓ Start planning for summer—apply for jobs, internships, volunteer work, etc.

## AMSA Guidance Dept

**\*\*Note:** For those interested in applying to any of the US Military Academies, the admissions process can begin as early as January of Junior year. Please check the individual website of each Academy to ensure you are familiar with the application requirements. Please make an appointment with your Guidance Counselor if you would like to apply, as the application materials are due early in Senior year.

### Spring

- ✓ Schedule an individual college planning meeting with your guidance counselor
- ✓ Ask two teachers for college recommendation letters and give them the Teacher Recommendation Request form (available on the AMSA website)
- ✓ Visit colleges over April vacation
- ✓ Create a preliminary College List during Junior Seminar
- ✓ Complete the **Student Autobiography** (under Surveys on Naviance)
- ✓ Give parents **Parent Brag Sheet** to complete and email to your Guidance Counselor (found on the AMSA website)

### Summer before Senior Year

- ✓ Write a rough draft of your college essay
- ✓ Pare down college list to 8-10 colleges
- ✓ **AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup>** Register for the 2015-16 Common Application, which should be available the first week of August.
- ✓ **Create a folder** to record all username/password information in a safe place. Do NOT have more than one account for the Common Application or College Board!
- ✓ Discuss cost of college with parents and realistic expectations.

## Senior Year

### Fall

- ✓ Take Senior Seminar and attend AMSA College Representative Visits
  - Sign up for visits on Naviance. You will need a pass from your teacher to attend.
- ✓ Meet with your guidance counselor to finalize college list
- ✓ Check in with the teachers who are writing your recommendations and let them know your first application deadline
- ✓ Finish taking SAT/ACT/SAT Subject Tests
- ✓ Write College Essays and Supplemental Essays
- ✓ Send **Early Action/Early Decision** College Applications
- ✓ Complete CSS profile for colleges that need it for early deadlines
  - Please check each college's Financial Aid page for deadlines. There is no universal deadline for the CSS profile.
- ✓ Visit colleges you're applying to
  - Remember: you have two excused college visit days per semester (Fall/Spring), and be sure to get a College Visit form in the Guidance Office

### Winter

- ✓ Complete and send **Regular Decision/Rolling** College Applications

## AMSA Guidance Dept

- ✓ Starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, complete FAFSA for Financial Aid
- ✓ Complete CSS profile for regular decision schools
- ✓ Apply for scholarships
- ✓ Work on Senior Paper

### **Spring**

- ✓ April: Visit colleges you have been accepted to
- ✓ May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to decide which college you will be attending (submit housing deposit)
- ✓ June: Graduation!