



# College...THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!



College isn't something that you can wait until the last minute to do. It takes a lot of planning outside of just your Junior and Senior Years.... start thinking now and planning ahead!

## Here's your Four-Year Strategic Plan:

### FRESHMAN YEAR

- Concentrate on making **GOOD GRADES**; Freshman year grades WILL BE on your transcript
- **MEET WITH YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR** to talk about the types of classes you would like to take and the track to graduation (this includes NY graduation requirements)
- Utilize your **Naviance** account and play around on it (there are career aptitude tests and other things that can help guide you to possible careers/opportunities based on your interests)
- **GET INVOLVED**: join clubs and organizations and keep track of them all
- **CHALLENGE YOURSELF**: don't take classes just because they're easy

### SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Concentrate on making **GOOD GRADES**; make sure your grades are improving and that you are working hard
- **MEET WITH YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR** to register for some advanced classes; take it easy at first and then add on as you feel you are able
- Use your **Naviance** account to continue exploring your interests and to look up some colleges you might be interested in
- **STAY INVOLVED**: pursue leadership roles and keep track of all you're doing
- **TAKE THE PSAT**: take it seriously, it's free and shows colleges your potential!

### JUNIOR YEAR

- **KEEP UP THE GOOD GRADES**; Junior year is hard but don't let it kill your GPA
- **MEET WITH YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR** to make sure you're on the right path for graduation and to talk about college options
- Get the schedule for the **SAT/ACT**: see Mr. Bollar for help registering, fee waivers and study, study, study! (**Methodize** is a free prep tool for you to use!)
- **TAKE THE SAT/ACT AT LEAST ONCE!** The ACT will be offered to you (once) for free and the more you take it, the better your score will end up being!
- **LOOK UP SCHOOLS ON NAVIANCE**: look into admission requirements for schools you might like to go to! Attend college fairs, financial aid workshops, and visit some campuses!
- **START YOUR RESUME**: write down a list of all you're involved in, awards you have received, and any other accomplishments to showcase when applying to college.
- **STAY INVOLVED**: do some community service, participate in clubs, and keep active!

### SENIOR YEAR

- **KEEP UP THE GOOD GRADES**; Don't let Senioritis get the best of you!
- **MEET WITH YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR** to make sure you're on track for graduation and to talk about college options
- **TAKE THE SAT OR ACT AGAIN!** Retaking these tests will improve your scores and chances to get into school
- **LOOK UP SCHOOLS ON NAVIANCE**: at this point, you should be finalizing where you are applying, visiting campuses, and making sure you match entrance requirements!
- **APPLY TO SCHOOL**: utilize your Counselor, or Mr. Bollar, and events such as College Application Week to apply to school. Apply to at least 4 colleges, and apply to NCC as well!
- **APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS**: It's all about the money. Make sure you do your FAFSA before March 1.
- **ENROLL**; pay your deposits, register for classes, and housing!
- **GRADUATE AND HAVE FUN!**

GET A MORE COMPLETE CHECKLIST FOR JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEAR IN GUIDANCE!