

Key Milestones

Wherever you are in the college search journey, use this guide to make sure you're on track! Missed a milestone? Don't panic. Talk to Mrs. Bucher and see how you can catch up. It's never too late to find the right college.

If you're a **Freshman**

In the fall

- ✓ Get involved in extracurricular activities right away! School related extracurriculars, student organizations, and community-based activities/service help strengthen college applications & resumes!
- ✓ Get to know your school counselor and college & career counselor. Building relationships creates a more positive high school experience.
- ✓ Stay on top of your school work! The goal is to start your high school academic experience strong. If you believe that you may be slipping in classes, talk to your teacher about extra help!

✓ In the spring

- ✓ Meet with your school counselor to discuss sophomore year class requirements and electives.
- ✓ Explore the career paths and subjects you might want to study in college. Attend a career fair or shadow a professional in a field you're interested in to learn more about their work and the path they took to get there. Log on to your Naviance account to research careers and related programs of study (if applicable).
- ✓ Make the most of volunteer opportunities.
- ✓ Start researching colleges.
- ✓ Attend college fairs and talk with college representatives. Ask them about campus life, application requirements, and financial aid.
- ✓ Work with your school counselor, college advisor, parent, or guardian to develop a list of colleges that interest you (Mrs. Bucher suggests eight to ten colleges).

Use Naviance to research the colleges on your list, keeping track of your questions and the things that you like about each college.

- ✓ Attend college open houses and campus visits. If you are unable to visit a college in person, most colleges have virtual open houses and tours available.
- ✓ In the summer, continue to research and visit colleges.
- ✓ Stay involved in extracurricular activities: consider a summer job, internship, or volunteer position.