SOPHOMORE YEAR

Concentrate on academic preparation and continue to develop skills and co-curricular interests.

September

Take NCAA-approved courses if you want to play sports in college.

Continue to review your 4-year academic plan on a semester basis.

Confirm that your high school classes will meet graduation requirements and fulfill any post-secondary plans.

Look for opportunities to express yourself in leadership, community service, fine arts, and athletics.

Regularly update your Academic Profile/Resume.

October

Take the PSAT 10 for practice. The results will not be used for college admission. All Sophomores will take this and it is free to the student.

Sign up, if you have not done so already, for co-curricular activities that interest you. The level of involvement and accomplishment is most important, not the number of activities.

Keep a record of your co-curricular involvement, volunteer work, and employment (all year).

November

Make sure you are "on top" of your academic work. If necessary, meet with your teachers for additional help.

Save your best work in academic courses and the arts for your academic portfolio throughout the school year. Upload these items to online programs such as the Coalition locker or ZeeMee, for example.

Take interest and personality surveys again to help you discover your academic and personal strengths/interests and to analyze the results against possible career choices.

Schedule visits to college campuses while on school holidays.

December/January

Receive results of the PSAT 10. Read the materials sent with your score report. Consult with your counselor to explore ways to improve on future standardized tests.
Continue to add to your academic portfolio.

Volunteer in your community. This is a great way to identify your interests and to develop leadership skills.

February/March

It is never too early to start researching colleges and universities. Visit your counselor office to browse through viewbooks of potential college and universities. You may also research your prospective colleges online.

April

Register for June SAT Subject Test(s) if you think you may apply to colleges that require or recommend these tests. These are one-hour exams on academic subjects that you have already completed. Among the many to choose from are biology, chemistry, foreign languages, and physics. Many colleges require or recommend one or more of the SAT Subject Tests for admission or placement. Talk to your teachers and counselor about which test to take.

Continue to research career options and possible college majors that will help you achieve your career goals.

May/June

Plan now for wise use of your summer. Consider taking a summer course or participating in a special program (e.g., for prospective engineers or journalists or for those interested in theatre or music) at a local college or community college.

Identify an organization you are passionate about in which to dedicate your time and energy.

Make arrangements to visit prospective colleges and universities over the summer.

Take the SAT Subject Tests that you may have registered for in April.

If you have a summer job, save some of your earnings for college expenses.

July/August

Sign up for an SAT or ACT prep course, use computer software, or take the practice tests in books designed to familiarize yourself with standardized tests.
Make your summer productive. Continue reading to increase your vocabulary.