JUNIOR | Spring Semester

- [ ] KEEP UP YOUR GRADES AND SELECT THE RIGHT SENIOR COURSES - Colleges like to see the kind of student you will be when you arrive on campus. Showing growth across your years of high school and challenging yourself with more demanding classes are a positive. Be sure to select courses that align with your area of academic interest.

- [ ] STAY INVOLVED AND COMMITTED TO EXTRACURRICULARS - Students who are involved in their high school and local communities are more likely to become involved members of their college communities, which increases the likelihood that they will stay and graduate. Whether you are involved at your school, or work to support your family, you are showing your dedication.

- [ ] FINALIZE YOUR TESTING PLAN- While some colleges will remain test optional, many others will require testing for the Class of 2027. Be sure to build test dates (and registration deadlines) into your plans.

TESTING DATES

SATS	ACTS
March 14th	April 11th
May 2nd	June 13th
June 6th	July 11th

- [ ] IDENTIFY POTENTIAL COLLEGE MAJORS - While there will always be options for undecided students, having specific majors in mind will help you research colleges that offer what you are looking for. Unique opportunities for internships or job placement should be explored.

- [ ] RESEARCH AND VISIT SCHOOLS - Getting online is a great first step to research what colleges have to offer, but nothing compares to getting onto a campus in person. Take advantage of Open Houses, college tours and information sessions, especially while colleges are in session (when a campus is closed for their Spring Break it's harder to get a real feel for the college).

- [ ] IDENTIFY TEACHERS FOR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION - These letters allow the college admissions representatives to hear more about who you are in the classroom, and as a member of the high school community. Think about the teachers who know you well and have seen you put in the extra effort to succeed in their classes. If you can find at least one teacher aligned with your potential college major, that is a nice bonus.

SENIOR | *Summer*

- [ ] DRAFT YOUR COLLEGE ESSAY - Use the Summer to brainstorm and develop your college essay. This is an opportunity to share the parts of who you are that aren't represented on your transcript and list of extracurriculars. Be authentic and creative! Use your resources, such as counselors and/or English teachers.

- [ ] CONTINUE TO GET ONTO CAMPUSES - Some students and families think that you can't get a real feel for a college campus over the Summer, but many college students take advantage of summer sessions, so you will have a better feel of the campus than you might when students are home for a break, or just sleeping in over the weekend. Always remember to stop by the Admissions Office so they have a record of your visit.

- [ ] CONTINUE YOUR TESTING PLAN- Summer testing dates are a great way to get a test under your belt before the school year and most other commitments start up again.

TESTING DATES

SATS	ACTS
August 22nd	July 11th

- [ ] CREATE YOUR COLLEGE LIST - There are a lot of factors that will impact your list, so be sure to take all of those into account. Prioritize the things that you NEED, and the things that are DEAL BREAKERS, everything else should remain flexible. You likely won't find one college that fits everything on your list perfectly, so remember to make your list of the schools that are most compatible with you.

- [ ] ORGANIZE THE DETAILS AND DEADLINES - The best way to schedule which colleges and applications to approach first, is to know what each application requires and when their deadlines are. This will allow you to decide which essays or letters to focus on sooner than others. Some students like to apply to their top schools first, while others like to complete a safety school application first. Find what works best for you.

- [ ] WRITE A BRAG SHEET FOR YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR - There are a lot of details that your counselor has about your academics and extracurriculars already, but a brag sheet allows you to share details that might not have come up before, but could be great for them to include in your letter of recommendation.

SENIOR | *Fall Semester*

- [ ] ENSURE THAT SUMMER TASKS ARE COMPLETED - Whatever wasn't completed over the summer, should be completed early in the Fall in order to stay on track for applications.

- [ ] CREATE ACCOUNTS ON APPLICATION WEBSITES - You may not be ready to apply to your schools, but if you know that a number of your colleges use a shared application site, you can create an account and start filling out some of the general information before you get started on the specific colleges.

- [ ] CONTINUE YOUR TESTING PLAN- Fall is a great time to fit in another (and possibly your last) college admissions test. Always be mindful of registration deadlines to avoid late fees.

TESTING DATES

SATS	ACTS
September 12th	September 19th
October 3rd	October 17th
November 7th	December 12th
December 5th	

- [ ] COMPLETE FAFSA FOR FINANCIAL AID - The FAFSA will open in October this year (after being updated and reconfigured for the Classes of 2024 and 2025). This application allows colleges to fully evaluate you for financial aid eligibility (merit and need-based). This will use tax information from 2025.

- [ ] COMPLETE AND SUBMIT APPLICATIONS ACCORDING TO YOUR PERSONAL SCHEDULE - This schedule will be different if you are looking to apply during the Early or Regular application windows. Below is a general timeline for each.

Early Timing (Nov/Dec)	**Task**	**Regular Timing (Jan-Mar)**
Summer/Sept	Finalize College List	Sept/Oct
Sept/Oct	Letters of Rec/Essay	Oct/Nov
October	Complete Applications and Send Test Scores	Dec/Jan
Nov (by college deadlines)	Fill out FAFSA	By college deadlines

SENIOR | Spring Semester

- [ ] COMPLETE AND SUBMIT REGULAR AND ROLLING APPLICATIONS - Regular decision applications are usually due in January through March, while Rolling applications either have deadlines in July, or don't have any deadlines at all. These should be simpler applications if you have already submitted anything earlier.
- [ ] RESEARCH AND APPLY FOR LOCAL AND NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS - While national scholarships are available for you to apply to at any time, my general suggestion is to complete your college applications, then transition to the scholarship applications, especially if you have to write more essays. Local scholarships will likely be shared through your high school, and have less students applying for each than the national scholarships, so don't overlook them.
- [ ] REVIEW AND COMPARE FINANCIAL AID OFFERS FROM ACCEPTED COLLEGES - This is commonly a key part of your decision process, so be sure to compare the bottom line on all of your Financial Aid packages, and make note of any loans and out of pocket expenses.
- [ ] SELECT COLLEGE AND SEND DEPOSIT BY MAY 1ST - With the exception of any Early Decision applications that are a binding commitment upon acceptance, all of your other acceptances have a May 1st deadline for your decision and deposit. **The sooner you decide and send in your deposit, the sooner you can start getting other details organized (housing and course selection),** but if you are having trouble deciding, remember you have until May 1st.
- [ ] NOTIFY YOUR HS COUNSELOR OF WHICH COLLEGE TO SEND YOUR FINAL TRANSCRIPT - High Schools across the country graduate at different times, so your college may start asking you for your final transcript while you are still taking classes. Remember to tell your high school where you are committed to attend, so they can send that final transcript once it is officially final.
- [ ] CELEBRATE ALL YOU HAVE ACHEIVED AND THE GREAT THINGS YOU HAVE AHEAD!