11TH Grade College Planning

CHECKLIST

***MANDATORY (Please enter these dates into your family calendar.)**

Revised October 2026

✓	DATE	EVENT/TASK
	AUGUST	• **August 9th:** High School Back-to-School Night • **August 31st:** deadline to add/drop a course
	SEPTEMBER	• **September 21st**: College Dress Day • **September 22nd:** Christian College Fair • *Finalize summer tasks on Cialfo (profile, extracurricular activities, resume, assessments).* • *Update community service hours on X2vol.*
	OCTOBER	• ***October 13th:** Junior Parent College Night at 7:00pm in the Art Lab (7pm, Test Prep Info 6:30) • ***October 20th:** PSAT exam at DSA at 8:15am-12:00pm • **October 21st:** Financial Aid Webinar • **October 23rd:** Deadline to register for November 7th SAT
	NOVEMBER	• **November 6th:** Deadline to register for December 12th ACT • **November 7th:** SAT exam • **November 20th:** Deadline to register for December 5th SAT • *Begin developing a college long list and testing plan on Cilafo.* • *Consider registration deadlines and exam dates for SAT/ACT)* • *Create/update Raise.me account for scholarships.* • *1-on-1 Check-in Meeting with Mrs. Warner*
	DECEMBER	• **December 5th:** SAT exam • **December 7th:** College Dress Day • **December 12th:** ACT exam • ***Over Winter Break:** Review your fall grades, refine your college list, and identify gaps to work on this spring.*

✓	DATE	EVENT/TASK
	JANUARY	• **January 22nd:** Deadline to register for February 27th ACT • *Continue working on completing community service graduation requirements. All hours must be your X2vol account.*
	FEBRUARY	• **February 19th:** Deadline to register for March 6th SAT • **February 22nd:** College Dress Day • ***February 26th:** Junior Family Meetings (Parent/Teacher Conferences) • **February 27th:** ACT Exam
	MARCH	• **March 5th:** Deadline to register for April 10th ACT • **March 6th:** SAT exam • ***March 23rd:** SAT School Day at DSA **(Half Day)** • *Schedule senior-year courses.* • *Apply and register for summer college programs.*
	APRIL	• **April 10th:** ACT Exam • **April 16th:** Deadline to register for May 1st SAT
	MAY	• **AP Tests** (5/3 – Human Geography, 5/11 – Pre-Calculus, 5/12 – Eng. Lang and Comp) • **May 1st:** SAT exam • **May 7th:** Deadline to register for June 12th ACT • **May 11th:** College Dress Day • **May 25th:** Deadline to register for June 5th SAT • *Common App Personal Statement work in English classes.* • *Ask 2 teachers for letters of recommendation and fill out a brag sheet for them.* • *Create a Common App account.*
	SUMMER BREAK	• ***Visit college campuses!*** • ***Complete Common App information sections** (Profile, Family, Education, Testing, Activities, Writing, and Courses & Grades).* • *Continue to work on **Common App essay** and share it with your college counselor through Google Docs to proofread.* • *Finalize college application list.* • *Send teachers your **brag sheets** if you have not already done so.* • *Take the **SAT/ACT** at least one more time.* • ***Finish community service hours** (you need 20 hours for each year you are at DSA)* • *Participate in a pre-college summer program, work a part-time job, and/or take part in meaningful service or volunteer work.*

General Tips

Additional guidance by semester, to complement the dated items above — 11th Grade

Fall Semester

Academics

- ☐ Enroll in the most rigorous courses you can handle well — junior year grades are often the most important grades colleges see.
- ☐ Keep an eye on your course load so it doesn't come at the cost of your grades, sleep, or wellbeing.

Build Your College List

- ☐ Start a preliminary list of colleges, considering academics, location, size, cost, and campus culture.
- ☐ Sort your list into reach, target, and safety schools so it stays realistic and balanced as it grows.
- ☐ Note whether colleges you're interested in admit students by major, school, or college (important for competitive programs).

Career & Major Exploration

- ☐ Use a career interest inventory or one-on-one conversations to narrow in on possible majors or fields — this will help focus your college list.

Standardized Testing

- ☐ Take a practice/mock SAT and ACT to see which test format fits you better.
- ☐ PSAT/NMSQT scores (taken in October) are used for National Merit Scholarship consideration.
- ☐ Build a testing timeline with your counselor, aiming for your first official SAT or ACT by winter or early spring.

Activities & Records

- ☐ Keep an updated, organized record of your activities, awards, community service hours, and leadership roles.
- ☐ Draft a resume or "brag sheet" summarizing your activities — you'll need it for recommendation letters and applications. Mrs. Warner has a guide for this!

Relationships

- ☐ Build strong relationships with teachers and your counselor — the strongest recommendation letters come from teachers who know your work ethic, curiosity, and character.

College Fairs & Visits

- ☐ Attend a college fair, information session, or virtual tour to broaden your sense of options beyond the schools you already know.

Student-Athletes

- ☐ If you're pursuing NCAA Division I or II athletics, keep your NCAA Eligibility Center core-course tracking current and check in with your coach/counselor on recruiting timelines.

Spring Semester

Self-Reflection & College Research

- ☐ Reflect on your goals and start shaping your "why" — what you're looking for in a college and why it matters to you.
- ☐ Continue researching colleges; schedule campus visits and sit in on classes when possible.

Standardized Testing

- ☐ Take the SAT and/or ACT, aiming to complete testing by the end of junior year.
- ☐ Plan a retake for late spring or early summer if you'd like to improve your score.

Financial Planning

- ☐ Run the Net Price Calculator on a few colleges' websites to get an early, realistic sense of what each might actually cost your family.
- ☐ Start a scholarship search (school counselor lists, community organizations, and free scholarship search sites are good starting points).

Letters of Recommendation

- ☐ When choosing recommenders, aim for one from a STEM subject and one from English, history, or a foreign language.
- ☐ Give your recommenders what they need (resume/brag sheet, deadlines) well before summer.

Academics

- ☐ Prepare diligently for AP exams — your performance in advanced coursework is a key part of your application.

Essays

- ☐ Start brainstorming personal statement topics once Common App essay prompts are released — junior spring is a great time to get a head start before senior year gets busy.

Digital Footprint

- ☐ Review your social media presence and clean up anything you wouldn't want an admissions reader or coach to see.

Wrap Up the Year

- ☐ Confirm your recommendation letter writers and thank them for their support.
- ☐ Start planning your summer: college visits, meaningful activities, and continued essay brainstorming.