

COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE

*Adapted from myfuture.com/college/college-planning-timeline & coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/curriculum
Personalized for the CCPS curriculum and students.*

9th Grade



At the end of 8th grade, introduce yourself to the college counselor and IB coordinator. Learn hard and soft skills that will serve you in and outside of the classroom. Work hard.



Get Involved Extracurricular activities are an important and fun part of high school. Look for sports, clubs, and groups that match your interests, then join!



Complete the Career Cluster Exploration Program and ASVAB (a questionnaire designed to help you figure out the careers you would excel at and enjoy). Begin to discover what educational requirements are needed for your career goals.



Focus on getting good grades and developing good study habits. Your grades from 9th and 10th grade count towards college admission and scholarships. Courses from 8th grade also count towards graduation!



Start thinking about financing your college education. Have a discussion with your parents or guardian about what they think they can afford and start applying for scholarships at the end of the school year.



Do something interesting during the summer. Think about how what you do during the summer may look on a college application. Volunteer, learn something new, or pursue a passion!

10th Grade



Focus on your grades! Continue planning your classes. Look at IB offerings and consider other opportunities. The largest factor in admissions consideration is the work you put in day to day & this is shown through grades.



Stay involved and seek new opportunities. Consider taking up leadership roles in the activities in which you're most interested.



Complete the YouScience aptitude assessment in Scoir. Start building a list of schools that you think might be a good fit. Chat with college students home during holidays or summer. Get their take on college, especially if they are attending a school you're considering.



Start looking into colleges. Go to college fairs, visit colleges when traveling, and explore college payment options. Save for college if you have a summer job & continue talking to your parents about how you will pay for college. Apply for scholarships whenever possible.



Take the PSAT in October. Use the results to practice and improve for the 11th grade. Use Khan Academy to create a personalized study program or take a test prep course.



The summer of 10th grade is a critical summer! Consider summer community college, an internship/apprenticeship, or a summer program. Applications for summer programs open in late winter you must **PLAN AHEAD!**



In the spring before 11th grade select your IB classes with the guidance of the IB Coordinator and college counselor. If you have a particular goal for college, such as engineering, you can enhance your schedule by taking more than one science course.

11th Grade



This is your last opportunity to get involved! Colleges like students who exhibit personal interests and the ability to lead balanced lives that include more than just school, especially if students display consistent involvement or take a leadership role.



Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October. This is your ONE opportunity to qualify as a National Merit Scholar and the test is a good trial run for the SAT.



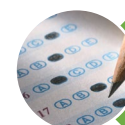
Consider taking up to two IB SL exams as a junior (ESS, IB Math adv. students only, History, or Psychology). This can free up one or two class periods as a senior allowing for a study hall, an internship, or special courses.



Getting good grades in your IB classes is very important. Colleges want students to demonstrate that they can take the most rigorous coursework available and perform well in an academic setting. In fact, your high school transcript through 11th grade is what colleges will use to determine admission acceptance in the fall of 12th grade.



Take advantage of college rep visits and attend virtual and local college fairs. Plan to visit colleges of interest. Visiting during fall break is the best chance to see college in session and get a true feel for life on campus.



Take the SAT in the spring. If necessary, plan to take the SAT or ACT in the summer between 11th and 12th grade. Know registration deadlines and plan ahead by taking a test prep course or study with the assistance of Khan Academy.



By the end of 11th grade have a working college list, explore scholarship opportunities, and write your first college essay draft. Plan to work on it over the summer. Consider requesting a recommendation letter by asking a teacher, mentor, or employer to write your letter over the summer. By planning ahead you can beat the rush in the fall of senior year.



Set up your senior class schedule. Continue to challenge yourself and consider going for the IB Diploma or course certificates. Schedule your first college counseling meeting.



Like extracurricular activities, the summer between 11th and 12th grade is your last opportunity to explore an area of interest, volunteer, or participate in a program that can be included in your activities list for college applications. Plan your summer in late fall. Save money for college from a summer job & work with your parents to create a plan to pay for college. Apply for scholarships!



In August, you can begin working on your college applications.

12th Grade



August September: At the beginning of your senior year schedule a family meeting with the college counselor to discuss your college goals and create a plan.



September: Last chance to register for SAT or ACT.



By October 1st have a final list of colleges you are going to apply to and create a calendar to keep track of deadlines. Scholarship deadlines are often BEFORE college app deadlines. Plan accordingly.



September October: Register for IB Exams and commit to IB Diploma or certificate pathway. Request recommendation letters!



November Consider applying early to college. Submitting Early Decision or Early Action to a college allows you to find out if you have been accepted to a school earlier than regular admissions notifications.



October January: COMPLETE COLLEGE APPLICATIONS and Complete the FAFSA for students. Note: Some schools also require the CSS Profile.



September November: Visit colleges. If you have not yet visited the top colleges you're considering, make arrangements. Fall is an especially good time to visit a college since classes are in session.



January April: Stay focused in the classroom! Keep your grades up. Colleges will review final transcripts and they expect you to maintain the same level of dedication throughout high school. Evaluate college offers, compare financial aid packages, and if necessary, send in additional paperwork. Make a decision. If you applied Early Decision (binding) you will need to withdraw your application from ALL other schools.



April May: Make a campus visit to your final choice before accepting (if possible). Make your FINAL DECISION by May 1st. Submit the corresponding enrollment form, deposit, and signed financial aid package. Complete housing deposit and sign up for orientation. Inform the schools you won't be attending. This frees up a spot for another student.

Take IB Exams and Graduate!



Say thank you to anyone who was especially helpful during the college process. Enjoy time with family and friends. IB Results will be released in early July.

Prepare for your first year of college.