

## FOUR YEAR COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR

### **9<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

- Sign up for strong classes and make studying your number-one priority. Participate in extra-curricular activities.
- Work to your potential because the grades that you earn become part of your Grade Point Average (GPA).
- Make your summer "meaningful". Consider collegiate summer programs, a part-time job, volunteer work, enrichment opportunities. Stop by the counseling office for additional information.
- When on vacation, drive through and walk around college campuses just to get the feel of a large school, a small school, a far-away school, different types of campuses, etc.

### **10<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

- Take strong courses and continue to work to your full potential. 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Foreign Lang.? Physics? Fine arts?
- Be a self-advocate, attend tutorials and do not let yourself fall behind in your classes. Meet with teachers, when needed, to review course work, tests and other academic work to "learn from your performance".
- Begin to consider the various types of colleges available and the types of programs that they offer.
- Students who qualify for Special Education or ADA accommodations and need those on the PSAT must see Mrs. Hobby in late August or early September to apply for them. A student must be "using the accommodations on a regular basis in the classroom" to meet College Board guidelines for special testing.
- Use the results of the PSAT to determine strengths and weaknesses in writing, verbal and math skills.
- Begin to visit colleges informally whenever you are near one during a family trip or vacation. Sophomores may be excused one (1) day for a college visit. Be your own best advocate.
- Make your summer "meaningful". Summer experiences are invaluable for personal growth and add depth to a resume.
- Work on service hours. Many applications have major sections that focus on community service.

### **11<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

- Focus firmly on grades. This is the last year to acquire a strong GPA for college admissions applications next fall.
- Consider a PSAT prep course based on 10<sup>th</sup> grade results if they showed potential for National Merit consideration. Otherwise, use the 11<sup>th</sup> grade PSAT as a baseline score from which to prep for next spring's SAT's and ACT's.
- Apply in early September for special test accommodations if you regularly use them in class & need them for the PSAT.

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- Attend College Fairs in your area. Talk to college representatives and establish contact with schools of interest to you.
- Talk with college representatives when they visit GACS. They can eventually be your "best friends" at the college admission selection table when applications are reviewed.
- Take the PSAT in October. National Merit Scholarship Competition is determined from the junior-year PSAT.
- PSAT scores can be used as SAT predictors within approximate ranges. They can also indicate areas of strength and weakness that students can work on before taking the first SAT and ACT during the latter part of the junior year.
- Mr. Lewis will meet with all Junior's in the spring to begin the college research process and give out a detailed calendar.
- Get on the Internet and review specific course requirements for admission at colleges of interest to you. You'll be better prepared to select appropriate senior-year courses if you do this research early.
- Register for strong senior classes. Economics and Government? Some schools require/highly recommend them. Course selection is very important to most colleges. They want to see you challenging yourself in the classroom.
- Take the SAT and/or the ACT in the spring. Take SAT II's at the end of your junior year if necessary.
- Continue to develop your resume. Consider running for leadership positions during your senior year.
- Ask teachers for recommendation letters early!
- Visit college campuses. Begin to narrow down choices. (Juniors are allowed 2 days for college visits)
- Make your summer "meaningful". Consider internships, enrichment programs on college campuses, work experiences, etc.

### **12<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

- Sign up for the SAT, ACT or SAT II's if necessary. Continue test prep if appropriate.
- Make plans to visit college campuses of interest to you. (Seniors are allowed 3 days for college visits)
- Attend the senior College Information Session before Back to School Night for admission tips and to review the college application process at GACS.
- Become aware of application deadlines and GACS deadlines. Meet with Mr. Lewis to finalize college application choices.
- Check on the financial aid and scholarship process at the colleges you are considering. Meet application deadlines.
- Finish the senior year strong. College admission is based on "successful completion of high school".
- Enjoy your senior year! You've earned it!