

# The CRUSADE for COLLEGE

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## What to do about college?

Check out this plan to help YOU get a head start at the college planning process.

### Grade 9

- Develop effective study habits and discipline yourself to earn good grades!
- Take appropriate and challenging courses
- Meet with your counselor to review your 4 year academic plan
- Prepare for the PSAT by utilizing “PREP ME” on NAVIANCE
- Attend college visit talks to learn about colleges and meet admission representatives
- Build your student resume and GET INVOLVED!
  - Community service
  - Join extracurricular activities
  - Build on leadership skills
- Navigate through NAVIANCE to prepare for college and career planning
  - Begin “Game Plan” in Naviance
  - Build a list of “colleges I’m interested in”
  - Begin to build student resume
- College-bound student-athletes: register for the NCAA Eligibility Center

### Grade 10

- Continue to develop effective study habits and remain consistent to earn good grades!
- Improve your course load to more rigorous classes such as AP courses in your Junior year
- Meet with your counselor and review your 4 year academic plan
- Prepare for the PSAT: utilize PREPME on Naviance
- Attend college visit talks
- Proceed to update your student resume and profile
  - Community service
  - Join extracurricular activities
  - Build on leadership skills
- Review College Handbook (on Edline and Naviance)
- Naviance:
  - Update your “game plan”
  - Continue to build on your college list
  - Update your student resume: up through sophomore yr
    - a) Community service
    - b) Join extracurricular activities
    - c) Build on leadership skills
- College-Bound Student Athletes: register for the NCAA eligibility center

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## Grade 11

- Stay focused on classes and keep up with your grades!
- Take the PSAT – juniors are eligible to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program and Review PSAT test results to decide if you will need test preparation courses to enhance testing skills and scores
- SAT/ACT test: take at least 1 test in the spring semester
- Get involved with internships/work experience
- Attend college talks of “highly interested” schools – be prepared to ask admission representatives questions
- Begin the college research process: admission components, how to begin research, financial aid, preparing for college interviews, college essays, and self-reflection on plans for college
- Attend spring NACAC college fair
- Visit college campuses
- Begin to think about who you will ask for recommendation letters for college applications
- Naviance:
  - Update “game plan”
  - Complete Junior College Planning Survey
  - Refine your college search to “colleges I’m thinking about”
  - Update student resume : up through end of JUNIOR YEAR
  - Organize a list of top 5 schools by the end of the school year:
    1. 1 dream school
    2. 1 highly competitive school
    3. 2 less competitive school
    4. 1 non-competitive school (Plan B option)
- Students and parents meet individually with college counselor to discuss the college process and options

- College-bound student athletes: submit transcripts and test scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center

## Grade 12

- Meet with alpha counselor to finalize senior class schedule and update transcript
- Meet individually with college counselor to review application procedures, college list, and follow up on any questions or concerns
- Attend college visit talks in the fall
- Naviance:
  - Finalize list of “colleges I’m applying to”
  - Stay on top of application deadlines
  - Request transcripts and letters of recommendation (at least 2 weeks in advance)
  - Update student resume
  - Finalize essay drafts
  - Apply for scholarships
  - Complete “Senior Survey Questionnaire”
- Retake the SAT/ACT if necessary in the FALL – make sure scores are sent to colleges early
- December: attend FAFSA financial aid night
- January: submit the FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- Attend College Goal 808 – Free FAFSA completion workshop
- Apply for Saint Louis School scholarships
- Organize information received from colleges: admission letters, financial aid packages, email communication, etc.
- May: National Intent Date to confirm attending college and submit deposit
- Complete Senior Survey

**COLLEGE!!!**

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