Grade 11 College Planning Checklist

* Discuss your career and college ideas with your parents, teachers, and counselor.
* Take it to the next level. Enroll in classes that are challenging for you (maybe even AP/honors). Take the most rigorous curriculum you feel you can manage successfully.
* Check your credits carefully with your counselor. It is your responsibility to keep up with required credits and your progress toward graduation.
* Register for the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, and ACT before the deadline. It costs more to register late. All students will test spring of their Junior year.
* Prepare for the PSAT, ACT, and SAT. Take online practice tests. Use the Khan Academy to help prepare (link this to your College Board Account for practice garnered to your strengths/weaknesses).
* Opt to take the PSAT/NMSQT. Your PSAT scores from your junior year count toward the National Achievement Program and help prepare you for the SAT in April.
* Identify and prioritize your college selection criteria. Use Naviance (**Directions to login using Clever coming soon**)!
* Use your selection criteria to narrow down your list of potential colleges.
* Find out the dates of College Preview Days. These are days set aside for prospective students to visit the college campus. Pre-register for previews so you are able to attend.
* Request applications and brochures from the short list of colleges to which you plan to apply. Make a note of important dates, such as early admissions deadlines.
* Register for and attend college information sessions which are conducted by college representatives. They are held in the community, on campus or at MHS. For MHS visits, sign up through Naviance.
* Check spring tests dates before winter break. You can take up to three SAT Subject Tests, SAT Reasoning Test, on the same day.
* Start preparing for the SAT. There are lots of free online practice tests, including through the College Board.
* Consider participating in summer activities that will enhance your college application. Volunteer, find an interesting job, take college credit courses, or enroll in college-based seminar or workshop.
* Use the FAFSA4caster with your parents to estimate your eligibility for federal student aid (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/estimate>). Or sign up for an appointment with our College Now rep, Doug Boes, by calling Mrs. Kraft @ 440-995-6820.
* Take the School Day SAT in April (no registration needed, see Mrs. Bourdakos with questions) and consider the ACT, as well (see Mrs. Bobinski with ACT questions).
* Begin thinking of the teachers you will ask to write letters of recommendation for you.
* If you plan to participate in Division I or II Athletics, complete the NCAA Clearinghouse electronic registration. See Mrs. Bourdakos for details.
* Over the summer, begin writing practice essays and rough drafts of college application. Ask friends and family to critique essays. Review the Common App essay prompts, they are often similar from year to year. <https://www.commonapp.org/blog/2019-2020-common-app-essay-prompts>
* Narrow down your college selections to three or five in which you intend to apply. These colleges should be
  + Dream School – to be accepted might be a reach
  + Safety School – 100% confident you’ll be accepted.
  + Something In-Between – school to be accepted with good programs in your interest.
* Apply early. If you have a clear “first choice” school, decide if you’re going to apply for early decision or early action. Be aware! If you’re accepted for early decision, you may be committing yourself to attend that school.