

## COLLEGE PLANNING STRATEGIES FOR GRADE 11

**In the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, the college process accelerates and it's time to start paying attention to deadlines and application requirements. The items listed below will help keep you on track.**

1. In October, take the PSAT. Taking the test in your junior year will determine your eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship Program. It will also give you a sense of your preparedness for the SAT.
2. Keep your academic record and schedule strong. If you are eligible for Honors courses, take them. Your success in upper level courses is a good indication that you have the skills to succeed in college.
3. Junior year is probably the most important year for earning high grades in challenging courses. Many senior grades come too late to play a big role on your application.
4. Assume a leadership role in an extracurricular activity. Colleges like to see you are a leader either in your school or in your community.
5. Take the SAT and/ or the ACT. Traditionally juniors start taking the SAT in the second semester and almost always in May. To find test dates and to register, go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
6. Be sure to check the SHR website. Scroll down to Student Services, then Guidance, then College and Career Planning. There are several sites to help you through the process of college selection.
7. By the summer, have a list of colleges to which you plan to apply. Take advantage of every opportunity you have to visit colleges. Browse the web to learn more about the colleges you are considering. It's foolish to choose a college if you have never been on campus.
8. Once you have your junior year grades and your PSAT scores, you will be able to predict which colleges will be reach schools, match schools, and safety schools. Look over the college profiles to see how your grades and scores compare.
9. Be sure to check the application requirements for the schools that interest you. Some schools require the SAT II subject tests and they are usually specific about which tests they want you to take. You must register for these tests at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
10. Check to see if the colleges you will apply to will accept the Common Application. Go to [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
11. Think about which teachers you will ask for a letter of recommendation when you apply. If possible, talk to them about this in the spring of your junior year.
12. Choose your senior class schedule carefully. Take AP courses if you are eligible. Your senior schedule should not look like you're easing up.
13. If you plan to major in the visual arts or architecture, get your portfolio in order.
14. Spend some time looking at the SHR website ([www.shrhs.org](http://www.shrhs.org)). There are many resources for help with college planning, scholarship search, financial aid, college visitations, career interest testing, and much more.

**DO AS MUCH AS YOU CAN NOW TO MAKE YOUR SENIOR YEAR STRESS FREE!**