

EMPOWER MY HOOD®

Checklist for Rising High School Juniors

FALL - WINTER

College Planning and Financial Aid

- ☐ Make a list of your abilities, social, cultural, and personal qualities.
- ☐ List any things you may want to study and do in college.
- ☐ Learn about colleges by talking to family members and friends who may be in college.

Testing/Essay/Portfolios

- ☐ At school, speak to a counselor about taking the PSAT, given in October.
- ☐ Make a file to manage the college search, testing, and application data (begin portfolios if needed)

SPRING

College Planning and Financial Aid

- ☐ Develop a list of 15-20 colleges that interest you. Don't limit your search!
 - ☐ Safe schools, Reach schools, Interested Schools, etc.
 - ☐
- ☐ Create a Common App profile
- ☐ Gather all information for financial aid and FAFSA, which opens Oct 1 Every year.

Testing/Essay/Portfolios

- ☐ Take the SAT. The test is typically offered in March, May, and June. Make sure you are preparing for the test several months in advance. **If you are not happy with your scores remember you can take the test a second time.
- ☐ Begin drafting your personal essay.
- ☐ Begin to finalize any types of portfolios that are needed for specific colleges

Guidance

- ☐ Contact your counselor before leaving school for the summer to discuss college plans.
 - ☐ If you are considering military academics or a four-year ROTC scholarship, you can begin the application process the summer before your senior year.

SUMMER**Application/ College Process**

- ☐ Register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center if you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college.
- ☐ Visit colleges. Visiting colleges can help to narrow down your non-negotiables list and help find the right fit for you!
- ☐ Begin applying to colleges. Most early admission applications open August 1. By this time, you should have your personal statement and other required documents completed.

Financial Aid

- ☐ Complete FAFSA Application Profile to obtain FSA (Federal Student Aid) ID

Writing/Essay

- ☐ Finalize personal essay and any supplemental essays needed for applications

Extracurricular

- ☐ Apply for a part time or full time job