Pre-College Calendar and Checklist

JUNIOR

August

- ❍ Review your high school coursework and activity plans. Keep in mind that colleges look for the following:
  - challenging coursework
  - a strong GPA
  - involvement in extracurricular activities such as sports, volunteer work, or church.
- ❍ Obtain a Social Security Number if you don't already have one. You will need it to apply for college and financial aid.
- ❍ Check with your high school counselor about requirements to be designated as a State Scholar.
- ❍ Request a catalog and admissions information from schools you are interested in visiting.

September

- ❍ Identify sources of college and career information at your school. Start reviewing college catalogs, guidebooks and web sites.
- ❍ Put together a list of 10 colleges that you would like to attend. Plan to apply to at least 3-5 schools.
- ❍ Talk to your parents and your high school counselor about where you want to go to school.
- ❍ Study and register for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).
- ❍ Obtain dates and locations of college fairs and "parent nights" in your local area.
- ❍ Visit with your high school counselor about scholarship opportunities.

October

- ❍ Take the PSAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT). Remember to take your calculator.
- ❍ Inquire about Advanced Placement (AP) or summer college courses that may be available to you.
- ❍ Attend college fairs and financial aid/parent nights.

November

- ❍ Begin online scholarship searches at *www.fastweb.com* and *www.scholarships.com*.

December

- ❍ Your PSAT/NMSQT score report should arrive.
- ❍ Start planning to take the ACT, SAT I, and/or SAT II exams, if necessary. Check with the colleges you are applying to and find out specific testing requirements. Ask your high school counselor about registration deadlines.

January

- ❍ Go through the catalogs of the 3-5 schools that interest you the most and schedule college visits.
- ❍ During your college visits, make sure you meet with an admissions representative and a financial aid counselor to find out what types of aid are available.
- ❍ Attend financial aid nights, if you have not already done so.

February

- ❍ Start seriously investigating private scholarships and other student aid programs. Ask your teachers and counselor if any local organizations offer free use of a scholarship search program.
- ❍ Go to *www.fastweb.com* and *www.scholarships.com* to review scholarships available to you.
- ❍ Register and study for the SAT (I and II) and/or ACT exams.

March

- ❍ Continue investigating funding sources.
- ❍ Register and study for the SAT and/or the ACT exams, if you have not already done so.
- ❍ Continue to check with your high school counselor about what you need to be doing to prepare for college.

April

- ❍ Begin scheduling visits to each of the 3-5 schools that are on your final list. If appropriate, schedule an interview and/or an overnight visit.
- ❍ Research taking the Advanced Placement (AP) exams while information is fresh in your mind.
- ❍ Take an SAT prep course to help prepare for the upcoming test.
- ❍ Begin preparing essays for college admissions and scholarship applications.

May

- ❍ Take the ACT and/or the SAT (I and II) exams.
- ❍ Take Advanced Placement (AP) exams which are given in high schools nationally in early to mid-May.
- ❍ Be aware of the test dates and registration deadlines for the remaining SAT I and SAT II exams. You may take them during your senior year in high school.
- ❍ Continue compiling information to find out which organizations award scholarships to graduating seniors. (You may have to begin applying the summer after your Junior year.)

June

- ❍ Take the SAT (I and II) and/or ACT exams if you did not take them last month.
- ❍ Read a variety of books and magazines and review your math skills over the summer. This will help you prepare for the SAT, if you plan to take it in the fall.
- ❍ Obtain a summer job that might be related to your career interests.
- ❍ If possible, save some money from your summer job to pay for college costs.
- ❍ If you travel this summer, consider scheduling a college visit.

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