

## **COLLEGE PREPARATION TIMELINE**

### **Grade 8**

- Students should begin determining career fields of interest and researching those careers
- Middle school counselors will guide 8<sup>th</sup> grade students through the Career Cruising Interest Inventory Assessment
- Each student will have an opportunity to meet with his/her counselor to plan course selections for the high school years
- Parents and students will be invited to general information sessions
- It is strongly recommended that each student thoroughly read the course selection book and carefully choose courses for high school
- Students should begin reading college catalogs and publications that provide college profiles and admission requirements
- Students should select courses to fit overall planning which projects beyond the high school years. Interest and ability should determine choices

### **Grade 9**

- Counselors will guide 9<sup>th</sup> grade students through the Career Cruising Interest Inventory Assessment
- Students will complete a projected four-year high school academic plan and select career interest areas in accordance with the Achieve Texas Initiative Career Pathways.
- Goals and objectives that were chosen in the eighth grade need to be re-evaluated
- Students should secure and review college catalogs and publications which give college profiles
- Students should begin composing a resume by keeping report cards, test scores, honors, school activities, community activities, and work experience. You may also want to keep samples of your major school projects, papers, etc.

### **Grade 10**

- Review your projected graduation plan
- Take courses that are challenging
- Take the PSAT in October as practice for the PSAT/NMSQT that juniors take for scholarship consideration
- Analyze the PSAT results and establish personal goals in January
- Continue to review college publications
- Begin to visit colleges in the summer, especially if you are interested in a highly selective college
- Study to make your grades representative of your abilities
- Continue adding to and updating your resume

## **Grade 11**

- Review your projected graduation plan and narrow college choices
- Confer with parent(s) and the counselor to decide on courses for the senior year and to discuss post-graduation plans
- Take challenging courses
- Attend any of the College/Career/Military information sessions in your area and talk to the personnel
- Take the PSAT in October
- Attend the "Just for Juniors Night" presentation in the spring
- Apply for any scholarships that your parents' employers may provide and any scholarships that are available to junior competition
- Pay attention to scholarships available in *The Counselor Connection* newsletter that is distributed online and in junior English classes each month
- Take the SAT and/or ACT in the late spring
- Visit colleges in the summer
- Send for college information
- Earn grades representative of your ability
- Continue adding to and updating your resume

## **Grade 12**

- Finalize college choices and send letters/applications to the colleges of your choice
- Check the Counseling office and library for catalogs from the college(s) of your choice to apply for any scholarships for which you may qualify
- Confer with your counselor in early fall
- Attend the College/Career/Military information sessions with your parent(s)
- Attend the "Senior Summit/Financial Aid Night" presentation in the fall
- Take the SAT and/or ACT and necessary achievement tests in October or November
- Send early decision applications in the fall semester
- Send in housing applications in early fall, especially to colleges that are highly competitive for dorm space
- Analyze SAT and ACT test results in December
- Send Financial Aid applications (FAFSA) in January
- Refer to *The Counselor Connection* newsletter available online and through senior English classes and the scholarship drawer in the Counseling office or B4 for scholarship information
- Local scholarship applications will be available in March in the Counseling office
- Continue to add to and update your resume

