

## Freshman Year

- Your child should schedule a time to meet with his/her counselor to create a course plan that will meet college entrance requirements.

## Sophomore Year

- Students should meet with their counselor to go over their course plan and make appropriate changes/corrections.
- Begin looking at standardized testing options. Tests like the PSAT and PLAN provide valuable practice for students. They should consult with their counselor to investigate ways to improve scores on standardized tests.
- Start searching for financial aid. Options include grants, loans, and scholarships. There are a variety of scholarships available to students of all ages.

## Junior Year

### *September*

- Have your child meet with their ASPIRE mentor or counselor to review their course plan for the school year and plan their senior schedule.
- Make sure your students are registered for the October PSAT.

### *October*

- Students should take the PSAT. Scores are used to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Competition and the National Achievement program.
- Have your child continue their search for scholarships and other financial aid options.

### *December*

- Receive the results of the PSAT. Have your student consult with their counselor to consider whether an SAT prep course could be a good investment.

### *February*

- They should register for the March SAT and/or the April ACT and contact colleges they are interested in to find out which test is required.

### *March*

- During their spring break, visit schools that interest them.

### *April*

- Students who have not already done so should register for the SAT and/or ACT test before the end of April
- Have your son/daughter re-evaluate their list of potential schools and eliminate those that no longer interest them.

### *May*

- You and your student should attend any financial aid events at your school or local community college.
- Students will take AP (Advanced Placement) tests, if applicable.
- They should continue to visit colleges. Contact the campuses in advance to schedule appointments with the department of financial aid, admissions, and academic advisors.