This list is to help you keep track as you navigate the college admissions process. Keep in mind that some of this information is general in nature and we will inform you of specific dates for testing, college fairs, college representative visits and application deadlines as those become available each year. This timeline is also flexible enough to accommodate the needs of students who transfer in and join our St. Catherine’s community a little later along. Please communicate with your Guides and College Counselor regularly. We look forward to helping you find a great-fit college to meet your specific needs and interests!

**ADOLESCENT COMMUNITY**

- ☐ Make academics a priority.
- ☐ Explore activities and volunteer opportunities that really interest you.
- ☐ Write a resume and update it regularly
  - ★ Journal! Your insights may prove invaluable when writing college essays.

**SOPHOMORE**

- ☐ Attend the Colleges That Change Lives (CTCL) fair in August.
- ☐ Attend Catholic College Night fair in October.
- ☐ Attend a National Association of College Admissions Counselors fair (NACAC) in the spring.
- ☐ Explore activities but focus on depth vs. breadth.
- ☐ Attend college representative visits at SCM.
- ☐ Update your resume using the Naviance template.
- ☐ Take the PSAT practice test in the spring.
- ☐ Consider visiting college campuses during spring or summer travel to explore different types of schools (large/small; private/public; small town/big city). This can even be done right here in Houston!

**JUNIOR**

**Summer**

- ☐ Consider summer employment or volunteer activities.
- ☐ Read some college guides during the summer! A list of recommendations is available.
- ☐ Begin SAT or ACT preparation. A list of recommended tutors and study guides is available.

**August - September**

- ☐ Attend the CTCL fair
- ☐ Update your resume with summer activities in Naviance.
- ☐ Decide if you will take any AP or SAT Subject Tests this year.
- ☐ Begin a college list with the help of your family, Guides, and College Counselor.

**October - November**

- ☐ Take the PSAT/NMSQT.
- ☐ Prepare for the winter or spring SAT or ACT. Register as necessary.
- ☐ Meet with college representatives at SCM.
- ☐ Attend Catholic College Night.

**December - February**

- ☐ Continue SAT/ACT test preparation. Register as necessary.
- ☐ Consider a spring break college tour trip and take official university tours of schools in which you are interested.

* indicates an optional activity
JUNIOR (continued)

March - May
- Take the SAT or ACT.
- Work on college list and tour colleges over spring break if possible.
- Work on summer plans (internships, enrichment opportunities, campus experiences, employment).
- Take AP/SAT Subject Tests in May.

June - July
- Write draft of Common App essay
- Visit colleges, explore a career interest, volunteer, etc...
- Additional test preparation, if planning to take ACT/SAT again in the summer or fall.

SENIOR

August - September
- Finalize college list. Be sure to have a distribution of Reach, Target, and Safety schools.
- Enter colleges into Naviance Colleges section.
- Open account with appropriate application portals such as Common App or Apply Texas.
- Finalize any additional standardized testing plans.
- Finalize resume, including summer activities and ongoing activities.
- Finalize essay.
- Begin applications.
- Write supplemental essays for those colleges that require them.
- Gather financial data for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
- Plan any additional college visits and schedule interviews as necessary.

December
- Submit any remaining applications.
- Consider any EA or ED decisions that you have received. If you are admitted ED, rescind all other applications.

January
- Most RD application deadlines occur by 1/15.

February - March
- Enjoy your senior year!
- Regular decisions start to be released towards end of March.

April
- Schools are obliged to let you know their decisions by 4/1.
- Compare offers, visit schools if necessary and commit to a school.

May
- Students must accept or deny offers by 5/1. If you are declining an offer, send an e-mail to the school’s rep, thanking them.
  - Take AP tests.
- If you are offered a place on the wait list, accept it, update the school with what you have been doing, then assume you won’t get in. Commit to a school that has admitted you. THE END! Or rather, a great beginning...