

College Prep Timeline for High School Students at St. Catherine's Montessori

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.
- ★ During your 9th year meet with Guides to plan which AP and SAT Subject Tests you would like to take during junior and senior year and when will be the best time to take your chosen SAT Subject Tests (These tests are not required by all colleges, but it is a good idea to take the minimum number so as not to preclude an application to a particular school).

SOPHOMORE

- Attend the Colleges That Change Lives (CTCL) fair in August (8/11/18).**
- Attend a National Association of College Admissions Counselors fair (NACAC).**
- Explore activities but focus on depth vs. breadth.**
- Update your resume.**
- Participate in standardized test preparation classes at school.**
- Take the PSAT practice test in the spring.**
- ★ Plan to visit 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. Colleges look favorably on students who have employment experiences.
- ★ Read some college guides during the summer! A list of recommendations is available.

August - September

- ★ Attend the CTCL fair (8/11/18).
- Attend college representative visits at SCM. This is a great opportunity both to gain information and to show demonstrated interest in an institution.**
- Update your resume with summer activities.**
- ★ Decide if and when you will take any SAT Subject Tests this year.

October - November

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT (10/10/18).**
- Research schools and financial aid.**
- Prepare for the spring SAT and ACT.**
- ★ Attend college fairs or meet with college representatives when possible.

December

- Receive PSAT/NMSQT SCORES.**
- Continue SAT/ACT test preparation.**
- Begin a college list with the help of your family, Guides and College Counselor.**

January-February

- Register to take the spring SAT and ACT and continue preparation.**
- Update your resume and review your transcript with Guides and Counselor.**
- ★ Consider a spring break college tour trip and take official university tours of schools in which you are interested.

JUNIOR (continued)

March

- Take the SAT (3/9/19).
- ★ Work on college list and tour colleges over spring break if possible. Try and meet with representatives for the Houston area if they are in the office. Send a handwritten thank-you note when you return.
- Work on summer plans (internships, enrichment opportunities, campus experiences, employment).

April

- Take the ACT (4/13/19).
- Write drafts of essays for those applications that have made topics available, such as the Common App.

May

- Narrow college list and consider the best way to apply to each college (e.g. Early Decision (ED); Early Action (EA); Regular Decision (RD)).
- Revise essays.
- Request letters of recommendation from your Guides and Counselor.
- ★ Take AP tests.

June-July

- Visit colleges, explore a career interest, volunteer, etc...
- Additional test preparation, if planning to take ACT/SAT again in the fall.

SENIOR

August - September

- Finalize college list. Be sure to have a distribution of Reach, Target, and Safety schools.
- ★ Create a spreadsheet to track each application.
- Open account with appropriate application portals such as Common App, Apply Texas, and Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success.
- Finalize standardized testing plans; register for any additional test including SAT Subject Tests.
- Finalize resume, including summer activities and ongoing activities.
- Begin applications.
- Write supplemental essays for those colleges that require them.
- ★ Parents gather financial data for financial aid.

October

- FAFSA application opens.
- Identify any merit-based scholarships available at the colleges where you are applying.
- Continue writing and revising essays.
Continue with standardized testing as needed.
- Send your test scores from ACT and/or the College Board (SAT) to the colleges. *This is YOUR responsibility. Confirm that the scores arrived.*
- ★ Reach out to college reps, attend fairs, receptions, etc...demonstrate your interest!

November

- Early Action/Decision application deadlines
- Continue and complete all applications.
- Wrap up standardized testing.

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...