College Prep Timeline

Summer prior to senior year
- Set Up your FSA ID for the FAFSA, if you haven’t already done so
- Help parent(s) set up FSA ID for FAFSA
- Visit colleges
- Narrow college choices
- Identify admissions and financial aid priority deadlines for final college list and aid available in your state
- Build a resume of high school activities and accomplishments
- Register with NCAA Clearinghouse (if needed)
- Start admissions application essay(s)

Fall semester
- Take a rigorous curriculum
- Visit colleges
- Continue participation in extracurricular activities

August & September
- Register and retake the ACT and/or SAT
- Finalize your college application list
- Secure fee waivers for testing and applications (if eligible)
- Participate in visits by college representatives at your school/in your community
- Ask selected teachers for recommendation letters
- Begin completing college applications

October
- Take the ACT and/or SAT
- Complete college applications
- Submit the FAFSA (and Profile if needed) by priority deadlines
- Know all admissions and financial aid deadlines

November
- Use your scholarship search engines
- Identify local scholarship opportunities and begin applications
- Submit the FAFSA (and Profile if needed) by priority deadlines if you haven’t already done so
- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) for accuracy
- Provide any additional paperwork requested for admissions or financial aid applications
- Track your college applications and keep copies of all college paperwork
- Complete individual college scholarship applications (if required)

December
- Act on any Early Decision application responses
- Review early award letters received
- Establish college email accounts when instructed by admissions letters
- Keep list of log-ins and passwords for any college accounts established
- Complete additional college applications
- Complete the FAFSA if not already done or add any colleges you applied to not previously listed

Spring semester
- Continue using scholarship search engines
- Review all admissions decision notifications
- Provide any additional paperwork requested for admissions or financial aid applications
- Log into and monitor critical messages in your college emails
- Do final comparison of all financial aid award letters
- Send mid-year reports if necessary
- Make your final college choice
- Complete any enrollment deposit and/or housing information required
- Notify the colleges you will NOT be attending
- Complete any registration required for college orientation
- Make arrangements to send final high school transcript, AP and/or IB scores and dual credit transcript, if needed
- Finish strong academically