

## SCHS RECOMMENDED COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE

### 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – BRINGING YOUR PLANS INTO FOCUS

#### September

- This is a great time to visit colleges. Go to a college football game or sit in on a class.
- Sign-up to attend information sessions given by visiting college admissions representatives in the Career Center. Sign-up to attend the presentations through Naviance.
- Remember to stay involved (i.e. sports, clubs, and activities outside of school).
- Work hard – GRADES COUNT! If you are taking honors or AP classes, don't be surprised to find that you need to adjust your study habits and time management skills to meet the challenge.

#### October - November

- Take the PSAT for the final time in mid-October. Do the best you can on this test and use the results to identify areas for improvement on the SAT.
- Decide if and when you want to take the SAT or ACT. Most students take the SAT or ACT for the first time in the spring of 11<sup>th</sup> grade. However, if you are an advanced math student you can consider taking the test in December or January. Think about your spring commitments when planning for these tests. You can take them more than once.
- Visit colleges, attend the FCPS College Fair, and participate in the FCPS virtual week of post-secondary programming in mid-October. These programs are a great opportunity to get information and talk to admissions counselors about colleges and universities.

#### December

- Register for the SAT or ACT for the spring. See your counselor if you have questions.
- Access your PSAT scores on the college board website and connect to the free test prep through Khan Academy. Visit the school library and check the career center website for SAT and ACT prep resources.

#### January - February

- **PAY ATTENTION** at the Academic Advising Presentation in the auditorium. We will discuss classes for senior year, the process for applying to college at South County and what you need to do to get ready for senior year.
- Learn about SCHS course offerings through the course catalog, elective website, and events like the evening curriculum fair. Discuss your course selection with your families. Think about whether you should take some Honors, DE or AP courses.
- Plan for summer: Enroll in a summer enrichment program, get a job to earn and save money for college, or explore your skills through an internship or apprenticeship.
- Continue to research colleges by visiting their websites, request information to be sent to you, and arrange campus visits to those schools that interest you. You will want to attend an admissions tour and sit in on a class.
- Meet with your counselor for individual academic advising. Come prepared to choose courses for your senior year and discuss post-secondary plans. Choose a challenging course load that plays to your strengths and interests.

#### March - April

- Visit colleges as you're able
- Monitor announcements from our College & Career Center to learn about college fairs and other information programs being offered in the area

### **May - June**

- Begin working on the counselor recommendation request form. Try to submit it before you leave for the summer.
- Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse if you hope to play D I,II or III athletics in college.
- Register for the SAT or ACT for the fall if needed.
- Talk to your parents about your college interests, and discuss family options for paying for college.
- Check SIS to verify your course selection. If there are mistakes, contact your school counselor **before** the end of the school year.

### **July - August**

- If you haven't had a chance to visit colleges, plan to do so this summer or fall.
- Complete your academic resume which will be handed in along with your counselor recommendation request form. Refer to the resume builder in Naviance for assistance.
- College Applications become available. You may get started, but you will need information about the process from our senior meeting that we will conduct in September, so you will not be able to complete everything.