Middle School

Challenge Yourself
Don't be afraid to take harder courses to prepare for your future.

Reach Out
Ask for advice from guidance counselors, coaches, or your favorite teachers.

Stay Healthy & Alert
Eat breakfast every day and set a regular bedtime. Try to get at least 9 hours of sleep.

Develop Good Habits
Get into a daily routine of studying. Try to always be reading a book.

9th Grade
Start Strong
Give studying your maximum effort! No one has ever said they studied too much for a test.

Look at Colleges
Explore all the options... big, small, near, and far. Attend local college fairs with your family.

Get Involved
Participate in a club or activity. Volunteer in your community. Make a difference!

Maximize Your Summer
Look into jobs, internships, and explore summer programs to help you grow.

10th Grade
Stay Focused
Don't be distracted from your primary goal, preparing yourself for college.

Review your Schedule
Make sure you are still on track for high school graduation and college admission.

Use the Web
Look at colleges closely. Get info on admission requirements. Sign up to receive more info from your favorites.

Take the PSAT or PLAN
These national tests are given in the fall to help prepare you for the SAT and ACT.

11th Grade
Test and Test Again
Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October. In the spring, register for the SAT and/or ACT. Take both to see which fits you best.

Narrow Your Choices
Research your favorite college’s application deadlines so you’re ready for early fall deadlines.

Set Your Senior Schedule
Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss your schedule and college plans.

Summer Visitation
Visit your top college choices. If you can't do it physically, look for virtual tours.

12th Grade
Make a Calendar
Mark down all the important dates in the application process for the school to which you apply.

Apply for Admission
Make sure to follow directions from your choice colleges. Most colleges require online applications.

Apply for Financial Aid
Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) when it becomes available in October.

Waiting is the Hard Part
Each college will let you know when to expect a decision. Mark your calendar and try not to worry too much.