COLLEGE PLANNING

* Register on collegboard.org Standardized Testing Info and Scores
* Record Application Deadlines
* Record Registration Deadlines
* Note Late Registration deadlines

SAT-Critical Reading (one US or World Lit passage, two history & social science passages, & two science passages), Vocabulary, Math (optional essay; no penalty for guessing)

ACT-Reading, Math, Science (optional essay, but some schools may require it-know in advance to plan for it)

KNOW IN ADVACE IF YOUR COLLEGES REQUIRE ESSAY ON SAT OR ACT!!!

COMMON APP

* Majority (77%) of CA schools require supplemental writing!
* Take the practice tests on the testing websites.
* Take the PSAT seriously. It’s a practice test.
* Test Day:

Be well rested; get a good night’s sleep the night before.

If you don’t typically drink caffeine, don’t start on test day.

Eat a good breakfast.

What to bring: #2 pencils, calculator, water, snacks, photo ID, registration form

Arrive early

Make sure photo that you print of yourself on the registration form follows testing guidelines (head not cut off at top; forward view; only you in photo; no posing or other inappropriate image)

* Familiarize yourself with [www.commonapp.com](http://www.commonapp.com)

Read EVERYTHING on this site.

* Start applying for scholarships early! There are hundreds of scholarships offered; some are from local businesses and foundations; some are obscure.

This is a time consuming effort that can, literally, pay off greatly for you.

Many of them require a specific essay tailored to the scholarship being offered

* Set up your college visits.

Check college websites to learn how to organize a visit.

* Make your top picks.

Narrow down your choices. You pay a fee for every application you submit!

* Get the facts about college admissions tests.
* Fill out your college applications.

Not EVERY school has a common app.

* Talk to your family about how to pay for college.

Discuss loans, scholarships, and federal aid.

* Fill out your college apps.
* Speak with teachers and/or your counselor in advance for letters of recommendation.
* Request LOR from teachers in whose class you earned a high grade. Give them at least 2 weeks to write the confidential letter for you.
* Submit your apps early or on time and file copies.
* Confirm that colleges received your materials.
* Decide if you will apply early. Know the pros and cons.
* Divide your college list: those most likely to accept you; those that feel like a bit of a stretch; those that are in-between.
* Understand your SAT scores. SAT will Super Score: keeping your highest scores from each time you test.

(Data shows that students improve after each test.)

* Compare three colleges.
* Decide the actual costs of your college choices.
* Check your mailbox for AP scores. They come in July.
* Find volunteer opportunities. They help in your experience and help colleges learn about you.
* Sort your college brochures: top choices; interesting options; toss.