

College Planning Guide

Planning for college is a team project that requires involvement from the school, the parents, and the student. It can be overwhelming for any one team member but, working together, it does not have to be burdensome. Below is a guide for parents and students at each grade level:

Junior Year

- **This year's academic record is the last one that will be seen by college admissions offices. Make it your best yet!**
- Begin thinking about and investigating careers that interest you. Talk to people who are knowledgeable in the field.
- Try to narrow down the list of colleges that you think you might want to attend. Watch for summer opportunities at those schools and visit as many as you can. Pay attention to their admission requirements and deadlines.
- Join and participate in extracurricular activities.
- Attend StJ's Private College Night, even if you do not plan to attend a private college. Much of the content is the same for any college, and you might be surprised to learn about a school that you haven't considered before.
- Start building your resume from the activities list you've been keeping. You can find examples at these websites: www.collegeforalltexas.com, www.actstudent.org, www.edulaunchpad.com, www.collegeboard.org/student. You will also find help with choosing a major and/or career choice.
- If you haven't already done it, send for a FREE copy of the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation Compendium. This is a comprehensive college handbook that will serve you well.

Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation
1250 N.E. Loop 410, Suite 810
San Antonio, Texas 78209-1539

<http://www.everychanceeverytexan.org/>

- You will be taking the PSAT again this year. The score you earn this year could qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Do your best and pay close attention in those classes that will prepare you for the test, especially English and Math.
- Find summer enrichment programs or consider getting a job. Almost anything you do will enhance your resume.
- Take both ACT and SAT during the year; repeat if necessary.
- Consider taking a dual credit class with Victoria College either during the year or this summer.
 - Unless exempted by an SAT or ACT score, you will need to take the THEA test or its equivalent prior to registering for a VC class.
<http://www.victoriacollege.edu/testingcenter>

- To be exempt you will need an SAT score of at least 1070 (combined reading & math), with a minimum score of 500 each on reading and math OR an ACT composite score of 23, with a minimum score of 19 each on English and math.
- As soon as the new version is available this summer, begin working on your Apply Texas application www.applytexas.org and/or the Common Application www.commonapp.org. Each of these websites includes a current list of the colleges and universities that accept either or both.
- Start working on your college essays over the summer. Ask an adult you trust to look them over and make suggestions for improvement.
- Register with the NCAA or NAIA Eligibility Centers if you plan to play sports in college.
- Be ready early on to ask teachers, coaches, and other adults to write letters of recommendation for you.