

## 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:

### Senior Year

**Take a deep breath and keep it all in perspective! Hopefully, you have been planning and working toward this year all along so it won't be as overwhelming for you as it could be. Remember that we are in this with you—don't be shy about asking questions.**

- Keep your grades up. Many schools require a mid-year transcript and school report, so this is not the time to slack off!
- While it's nice to know at this point exactly what you want to be when you grow up, it's not mandatory. Many students will change their major at least once over the next few years. Try to relax about it if you're not sure.
- Continue to narrow down the list of colleges that you think you might want to attend. Watch for campus visits from the admissions reps. Pay attention to admission requirements and deadlines.
- 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.
- Put the finishing touches on your resume and essays. Have an adult who knows you well look it over for content and/or clarification.
- Continue visiting these websites: [www.collegeforalltexans.com](http://www.collegeforalltexans.com), [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org), [www.edulaunchpad.com](http://www.edulaunchpad.com), [www.collegeboard.org/student](http://www.collegeboard.org/student) for ideas and hints on your essays, resume writing, career planning, and more.
- Repeat the ACT and/or SAT as necessary in the fall semester.
- Consider taking a dual credit class with Victoria College this year.
  - 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.
- Complete and submit your Apply Texas application [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org) and/or the Common Application [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org). StJ hosts workshops for help with these applications—plan to attend.
- Be ready early on to ask teachers, coaches, and other adults to write letters of recommendation for you.

- If you will be looking for financial aid, pay attention to the individual college requirements and deadlines. The FAFSA is your first step; start the online application whenever you can. <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. Another website that has an extensive scholarship database is [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR ASSISTANCE WITH THE FAFSA OR FOR ANY SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION. VC hosts workshops for help with the FAFSA—listen and watch for announcements.
- 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/>

- As the year progresses, you will be receiving notices via email from us regarding college information, visits, and scholarship opportunities. Be sure you read all messages and apply for any scholarships that you qualify for!