

Cabot School Junior

College Planning Monthly Checklist (2019-2020)

September

- ☐ Talk with your counselor about the year ahead. Confirm that your courses will put you on the right track for college admission.
- ☐ Ask about test dates for the PSAT, ACT and SAT. Plan to take PSAT in October and SAT/ACT in the spring. Review information about PSAT/NMSQT with your counselor.
- ☐ Start developing a resume – a record of your accomplishments, activities and work experience. This will be an important part of your college application.
- ☐ If you haven't participated in activities outside of class, now is the time to sign up. Consider clubs at school, team sports, leadership roles, part-time employment or involvement in a religious or civic community group.
- ☐ Attend the NEACAC College Fair at St. Michael's College on 9/18 (6:30 – 8:30 PM) and 9/19 (9 – 11 AM).
- ☐ Look at College Visit Information in the counseling office to meet with visiting college reps.
- ☐ Begin work on your portfolio in Advisory and continue refining your personalized learning plan.

October

- ☐ Take the PSAT. Taking the test as a junior will qualify you for some scholarship consideration and identify you to colleges as a potential applicant.
- ☐ Continue working on your resume.
- ☐ Attend the VSAC Financial Aid Form Workshop.
- ☐ Continue working on your portfolio in Advisory.

November

- ☐ Consider career goals. Meet with our Gear Up Coordinator to explore career options.
- ☐ Begin to prepare for the SAT or ACT. Plan to take one of these tests in spring. Ask your counselor if you qualify for a fee waiver.
- ☐ Continue to put forth your best academic effort!
- ☐ Work on your resume.
- ☐ Check in with your school counselor with any questions.

- ❑ Attend parent/teacher/student conferences at Cabot School.

December

- ❑ Keep editing your resume. Colleges look closely at your junior year.
- ❑ Review PSAT scores with your school counselor. Students will receive their test booklets so that they can review questions which they answered incorrectly. Use this test to help study for the SAT. Become familiar with Khan Academy and their SAT study tools.
- ❑ Make an appointment with your school counselor to discuss the college application process, Letters of Recommendation, and the Common App during December or January. Your counselor will help you research colleges or other options for post-high school (these meetings will continue throughout the year.) *If you are working with an independent private college counselor, you still need to meet with your Cabot school counselor.*

January/February

- ❑ Work with your school counselor to set your senior schedule. Enroll in the most challenging courses for you.
- ❑ Consider career goals.
- ❑ Register for spring ACT/SAT testing. It is recommended to take these tests with writing. College admissions policies vary; therefore, results from "optional" writing sections may help you access certain colleges. (www.collegeboard.org, www.act.org)
- ❑ Think about lining up a summer job, internship or attending a summer camp.
- ❑ Explore summer opportunities on college campuses – a great way to find out what college life is all about.
- ❑ AP exam registration details are disseminated in classes.
- ❑ Consider using February break to visit colleges/technical schools. Make a plan with your family for when you will visit the colleges you are interested in. College visits are an important factor. Start by visiting colleges near you and include a large, medium and small size campus.

March

- ❑ Register for spring ACT/SAT testing. It is recommended to take these tests with writing. College admissions policies vary; therefore, results from "optional" writing sections may help you access certain colleges. (www.collegeboard.org, www.act.org)
- ❑ Watch for VSAC announcements through your school counselor.
- ❑ Apply for proposed summer activities/jobs.

- ☐ Continue to develop a preliminary list of colleges with help from your school counselor. Go to college fairs and open houses. Learn as much as you can about colleges online.
- ☐ Consider using April break to visit colleges/technical schools. Make a plan with your family for when you will visit the colleges you are interested in. College visits are an important factor. Start by visiting colleges near you and include a large, medium and small size campus.

April

- ☐ Visit colleges during break.
- ☐ Apply for proposed summer activities/jobs.
- ☐ Register for spring ACT/SAT testing. It is recommended to take these tests with writing. College admissions policies vary; therefore, results from "optional" writing sections may help you access certain colleges.
(www.collegeboard.org, www.act.org)

May

- ☐ AP exams are administered. Keep your AP Grade Report if you're interested in earning college credit.
- ☐ Start to think about teachers whom you may ask for recommendations.
- ☐ Make sure you have planned for a challenging senior year.
- ☐ Check in with your school counselor with any questions.
- ☐ Polish your resume.

June

- ☐ Ask one or two teachers (depending on college requirements) for letters of recommendation, preferably academic teachers from your junior or senior years. Be sure to make these requests before this school year ends. Provide the teachers with your resume.
- ☐ Complete your final exams.
- ☐ Compile a prospective college list. Use College Board and Niche as resources for college searches. Start compiling your college list in a google doc.
- ☐ Plan to schedule campus visits at colleges/technical schools.
- ☐ Passage Presentation!

July/August

- ☐ Begin thinking about your applications. Generally, colleges will have their applications online by the beginning of August.

- ❑ Consider creating a Common Application account (www.commonapp.org).
Check if colleges you are considering use the Common Application.
- ❑ Continue researching colleges.
- ❑ Schedule and attend campus visits at schools that interest you.
- ❑ Start brainstorming your college essay, if you haven't already done so.