

# College Planning Guide



## JUNIOR YEAR

### September

- Register to take the PSAT/NMSQT and/or PLAN.
- Check dates and locations of local college fairs.

### October

- Attend college fairs.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT to be considered for the National Merit Scholarship.

### November

- Refine your list of schools; eliminate the ones that do not meet your criteria (Planning Guide for Selecting Colleges to Look at More Closely, p.13).
- Request catalogs for schools remaining on your list (College Information Request Letter, p.14).
- Compare and contrast admission policies, academic programs and placement opportunities for each school.

### December

- Examine PSAT/NMSQT results to determine areas that need improvement.
- Discuss PSAT/NMSQT scores with your guidance counselor and your parents.
- Consider taking SAT prep courses to improve your scores.
- Explore career fields of interest and research what type of training is required. Try to talk to people in your fields of interest (Career Planning, p.72).
- Ask your counselor what schools offer the best programs for your areas of interest.

### January and February

- Continue narrowing the number of schools in your file.
- Talk to your counselor and gather information on the application process (How Do I Apply to College?, pp.41-42 and Application Process, p.43).

### March

- Start preparing for Advanced Placement (AP) exams.
- Register to take the SAT or ACT. (Taking them early will allow you time to retake them if you are not satisfied with your scores.)
- Explore early decision options with your counselor.

### April and May

- Take the SAT and/or ACT or register for next testing dates.
- Final opportunity to take required tests for those applying early decision.

### June

- Make arrangements for campus tours.
- Review test results and determine if you should take them again in the fall.

Start thinking about your strengths and preferences in terms of what you may want to do in life (How Do I Pick a Major?, p.62).

Discuss your list of favorite colleges or universities with your parents and counselor.