Post-Secondary Planning Timeline

Are you "Ready to Go"?

9th Grade

INVESTIGATE

- High school graduation requirements
- Interests as they relate to careers
- Personal strengths, and
- Skills you have and those which you need to build.

CREATE

• Personal portfolio – gather your report cards, awards and honors documents, and a list of school and community activities, and, personal goals

ACTION

- Take challenging courses or take course rigors that are right for you
- Meet with your school counselor to discuss postsecondary goals
- Read as much as you can from a variety of materials;
- Prepare for the PSAT
- Volunteer
- Participate in extra-curricular activities, and
- Update your Academic and Career Plan

10th Grade

11th Grade

INVESTIGATE

- Career options
- College entrance requirements, most competitive college requirements include:
 - English (4 units)
 - Social Studies (4 units)
 - Science (3-4 units)
 - Foreign Language (3-4 units)
 - ❖ Mathematics (3-4 units, at least up to Algebra II)
 - World Language (3-4 units of same language)
 - Fine Arts/CTE (2-4 units)
- The cost of post-secondary education, and
- Honors/AP/IB Courses

CREATE

- Update your personal portfolio throughout the school year
- Create an activities resume, and
- Update and modify your personal goals as needed

ACTION

- Continue to take course rigors that are right for you or take challenging courses to include AP/IB/AICE
- Meet with your school counselor to evaluate your current performance as it pertains to future goals
- Read as much as you can from a variety of materials
- Take the PSAT and other state exams
- Volunteer or work part-time
- Start saving for college, and
- Participate in extra-curricular activities

INVESTIGATE

- College options and the application process
- NCAA Clearinghouse for potential college athletes
- Personal traits and how they relate to future plans
- Dual Enrollment with local Community Colleges

CREATE

- Update personal goals
- Update personal portfolio, and
- Finalize and update your activities resume
 - Include clubs, sports, community service & jobs you have had
- Start the Letter of Recommendation request forms early, forms are <u>online</u> or in the Career Center/Counseling Office

ACTION

- Continue to take course rigors that are right for you or take challenging courses to include Honors/AP/IB
- Take PSAT in the Fall of junior year and other state exams, as required
- Take SAT or ACT in the Spring of junior year (Prep resources at www.khanacademy.org or visit CUSD Community Education for in-class prep courses)
- Participate in extra-curricular activities and consider options for leadership within organizations
- Submit Letter of Recommendation request forms for teachers/counselors to write
- Attend college fairs, apply for colleges over the summer, and apply for scholarships
- Visit college campuses during spring break
- Meet with your school counselor and begin to finalize your senior year schedule and post-secondary plan

12th Grade

INVESTIGATE

- College entrance requirements
- College application deadlines
- Financial aid deadlines
- Scholarship options
- · College majors, and
- Community College options

CREATE

- Update your personal portfolio throughout the school year
- Finalize your personal goals
- Finalize and update your activities resume
 - Include clubs, sports, community service & jobs you have had
- Finalize the "Letter of Recommendation" request forms

ACTION

JUNE-AUGUST:

- Prepare for the SAT/ACT. (Prep resources: www.khanacademy.org or CUSD Community Education prep- courses)
- Craft/formalize college essays ask family, friends and teachers to review your writing
- Request Letters of Recommendation early, forms are <u>online</u> or in the Career Center/Counseling Office
- Research/Track admissions timelines
- Attend college fairs
- Apply for first choice and backup colleges
- Apply for scholarships
- Volunteer, work part-time or intern
- Meet with your school counselor for credit checks

SEPTEMBER:

- Register for the fall SAT/ACT tests
- Make a plan for meeting application deadlines
- Request/Track letters of recommendation from teachers, supervisors, coaches or volunteer coordinators
- Continue to apply for scholarships

OCTOBER-DECEMBER:

- Take the SAT/ACT again if needed
- Visit college campuses during fall break
- Continue to apply to colleges
- Start/Complete FAFSA

JANUARY-MARCH:

- Continue to apply for scholarships
- Continue to apply to colleges

APRIL:

- Review college acceptance decisions and finalize your college choice
- Notify your selected school by sending letter of commitment and submitting a deposit check
- Review any financial aid packages and scholarship awards with your parents
- Study for AP/IB Exams
- Apply to Community College if that is your chosen path
- Take the Community College placement test if needed

MAY:

- Take AP/IB; exams
- Send thank you notes to people who wrote letters of recommendation

IUNE:

- Inform your school counselor of any earned scholarships
- Inform your school counselor about your final postsecondary plan
- Register for college courses

JULY-AUGUST:

- Participate in any summer orientation program available at your school of choice
- Finalize financial aid arrangements
- Get ready to start college in the fall!