

SOPHOMORE YEAR TIMETABLE 2011-2012

August: All students should continue to focus on their coursework and grade point averages. According to the College Board, the NACAC, and the Knight Commission surveys, grades and coursework are the No. 1 considerations for admission to the more selective colleges around the country.

Students should begin or continue activities of interest that might culminate in leadership positions later on; during the admission process, colleges look for quality not quantity. It is important to start such activities early so that you can invest a considerable amount of hours in each endeavor by the time you are a senior. If an activity is important to you, then it is probably going to be important to the colleges. Please also keep in mind that unique experiences are highly prized by the admission committees.

October: Every student should take the PSAT and the PLAN, if offered, in order to establish a baseline from which to receive feedback from Mr. Haynes regarding their test of strength and how to best prepare for subsequent tests. The PSAT is a practice exam for the SAT Reasoning Test and the PLAN is a practice exam for the ACT. The results from both tests should give us an idea of which college entrance exam each student should challenge later. Mr. Haynes can recommend to you which college entrance exam(s) best exemplifies your personal strengths and also how you might improve any areas of weakness.

Students and their parents should attend the local college fairs, college days, and college night programs in the fall (usually October).

December: Students should continue to research prospective colleges.

May - August: Attend the Denver College Fair in May 2012.

Students should review the handouts and the mathematics overview found in the front of the sample SAT or PSAT Preparation booklet found online at collegeboard.com, before the next PSAT offered the junior year.

Take the SAT Subject Tests, if required by your college of choice (i.e. Spanish, biology, etc.). The SAT Subject Tests are one-hour subject tests given on the same days as the SAT Reasoning Test. They are much more curriculum-based than their predecessor the

SAT Reasoning Test. Usually students take three of them at a time. The best time to take them is in May or June of the junior year. However, it may also depend on how or when a student finishes a comparable class. For example, a student planning to become a doctor should probably take the Biology SAT Subject Test as soon after their Biology class as possible. However, only students who feel adequately prepared should challenge these tests.

Students should begin to visit and research several different colleges on their lists in order to further define their preferences.

SOPHOMORE YEAR CHECKLIST

- ___ Continue activities of interest.
- ___ Try to visit and research several different colleges.
- ___ Take the PLAN (sometimes called the "pre-ACT."), if offered.
- ___ Take the PSAT (the practice SAT), if offered.
- ___ Review the results of the PLAN and the PSAT with Mr. Haynes.
- ___ Learn about different types and sources of scholarships from the Internet and Naviance.
- ___ Begin to investigate additional sources of financial aid, if applicable.
- ___ Attend local college information night programs.
- ___ Continue to research prospective colleges.
- ___ Take the SAT Subject Tests, if applicable.
- ___ Attend the local college fairs in October.
- ___ Attend the Denver College Fair in May 2012.