



# College Counseling

## *Suggested Timeline for the College Process*

### **Grade 9**

- Work hard in classes, become involved in extracurricular activities, discover areas of personal interest
- Keep in mind that freshman year grades DO matter to colleges and they ARE used in the calculation of GPA
- Parents *invited* to attend Financial Aid Night (October)
- Parents *invited* to attend SMARTTRACK® College Funding Webinar (October)
- Students & Parents are *invited* to attend the *College Counseling Preview* program (March)

### **Grade 10**

- Continue to work hard in all your classes and be involved in activities, arts, athletics
- PSAT at Columbus Academy (October); review your score report (December)
- Parents *invited* to attend Financial Aid Night (October)
- Parents *invited* to attend SMARTTRACK® College Funding Webinar (October)
- Students & Parents *attend* the *College Counseling Preview* program (March)
- Practice ACT (April)
- Academic Planning Conferences with College Counselors for students and parents (April)
- AP exams, if applicable (May)
- DO NOT take your first SAT until Grade 11 fall or winter, at the very earliest

### **Grade 11**

- Junior Class Meetings with College Counselors for students (first quarter)
- Meet with college representatives visiting Columbus Academy during your free periods (September-November)
  - List available on MaiaLearning, TV Screens, Intranet and Social Media
- PSAT at Columbus Academy - *this is the one that "counts" for National Merit selection/honors* (October)
- Students and Parents *invited* to attend Financial Aid Night (October)
- Parents *invited* to attend SMARTTRACK® College Funding Webinar (October)
- Students & Parents *attend* *Grade 11 College Night* program (November)
- SAT/ACT (December/January, repeat March/April/May)
- College Counseling Class (third quarter) and regular meetings with your College Counselor
  - Class topics include the basics of the college search process, standardized testing, creating a resume, practice college interviews, writing the college essay, do's and don'ts of college applications, financial aid, requesting teacher recommendations and more
  - Meetings with college counselors topics include individual planning, creating college list, athletic recruiting, financial aid and suggestions for summer activities
- Schedule college campus tours (February); visit campuses over spring break (March)
- In-School SAT (April)
- AP exams, if applicable (May)
- Write college essay (May) and continue to visit college campuses (June/July)
- Students attend *Common Application Workshops* at Columbus Academy (August)

### **Grade 12**

- Parents (only) *attend Senior Parent College Night* at Columbus Academy (August)
- Meet with college representatives visiting Columbus Academy during your free periods (September-November)
  - List available on MaiaLearning, TV Screens, Intranet and Social Media
- Senior Class Meetings with College Counselors for students (first quarter)
- Finish applications and get necessary materials to colleges
- Continue to meet with your College Counselor as you prepare college applications and supplemental materials
- ACT (September); SAT (October)
- Students and Parents *invited* to attend Financial Aid Night (October)
- Parents file financial aid paperwork via FAFSA and CSS Profile (October/November for EA/ED applications; January for regular applications)
- Choose a college or university by May 1<sup>st</sup>