

8th Grade

- Take the Explore test in November.
- Start concentrating on your GPA now. Colleges see your grades from the first day of 9th grade on.
- Begin pursuing extracurricular and community service activities that interest you.
- Talk to your counselor in the spring about a plan for your academic courses for 9th - 12th grades.
- Read during the summer. Make sure to look up words you don't know. Improving your vocabulary will help you on the PSAT, ACT and SAT tests.

9th Grade

- Get serious about your classes early. Remember, your grades count now!
- Investigate clubs and other activities at school and in your community that match your interests. This will help develop your leadership skills. Don't wait until your junior year because colleges want you to demonstrate long-term commitment. Don't sign up for everything, either; colleges want to see passion and commitment in a couple of areas rather than little involvement in many areas.
- Check your Naviance account regularly and complete assignments from your counselor.
- Using Naviance, create a resume documenting everything you do, including clubs, sports awards, academic awards, community service, paid employment, etc. Keep this updated throughout high school, as you will use it when you fill out applications your senior year.
- Take Naviance practice SAT and ACT tests and discuss the results with your counselor.
- Take the PSAT in October and the Explore in November.
- Familiarize yourself with the academic requirements of the NCAA Clearinghouse if you plan to play college sports.
- Visit your counselor in the spring to make sure your course selection is still appropriate for your goals. Discuss the possibility of taking AP courses during the next three years.
- Drive through college campuses that you pass by on family trips so you can get a feel for what type of campus might be a fit for you.
- Continue reading during the summer and looking up unfamiliar words.

10th Grade

September

- Continue to work on your GPA.
- Continue with your extracurricular activities. Look into leadership opportunities in your clubs and organizations.
- Continue checking Naviance for assignments from your counselor.
- Continue updating your resume on Naviance.
- Continue talking with your coaches if you plan to play college sports.
- Make a list of majors that interest you. Visit your counselor and review your planned course

selection with these possible majors in mind.

- ☒ Take Naviance practice ACT and SAT tests. Discuss the results with your counselor.

October and November

- ☒ Take the PSAT and PLAN.
- ☒ Attend the Bay Area College Night in October. Begin researching the colleges that interest you.

April and May

- ☒ Talk to your parents, coaches and counselor about whether you need to attend summer school.

Summer

- ☒ Take the June ACT or SAT Subject Tests if appropriate. It is best to take the Subject Tests as soon as you complete the corresponding course.
- ☒ Look for summer jobs or internships in your areas of interest.
- ☒ Continue reading and looking up unfamiliar words.
- ☒ Continue visiting college campuses.

11th Grade

September

- ☒ Continue to work on your GPA. Junior year grades are extremely important!
- ☒ Continue with your extracurricular activities.
- ☒ Continue updating your resume on Naviance.
- ☒ Continue taking Naviance practice SAT and ACT tests.
- ☒ Talk with your parents and counselor to identify characteristics of colleges that are important to you – size, location, cost, academics, social environment, distance from home, etc. Using Naviance and other websites listed under “Electronic Resources” on the St. Luke's website, conduct a search using these parameters and then research the schools in the resulting list. Plan to visit these schools during your junior year if possible. Try to visit when school is in session so you can attend a class and talk to students and professors. Set up admissions interviews at each school.
- ☒ Begin talking with your parents about college costs and your family financial situation.
- ☒ Begin researching scholarships using Naviance, the websites listed under “Electronic Resources” on the St. Luke's website, or Google.
- ☒ Start developing a list of “google phrases” that describe you to use while searching for scholarships. Be as specific as you can. For example, searching for “nursing scholarships” will result in an overwhelming number of hits, but “nursing scholarships for African -American males” will give you a more manageable number of hits.
- ☒ If you want to play college sports, meet with your coach or Athletic Director to begin the process of contacting coaches at the colleges you are interested in.

October

- ☒ Attend the Bay Area College Night and make contact with representatives of the colleges that interest you. Keep their names in your college file.
- ☒ Take the PSAT to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship.

December

- Review your PSAT results with your counselor.

January and February

- Check with the colleges you are interested in to see if they prefer the ACT or SAT.

April

- Register for the June SAT or ACT, especially if you plan to apply for early decision.

May

- Take AP tests if you are eligible.

Summer

- Look for summer jobs or internships in your areas of interest.
- Continue reading and looking up unfamiliar words.
- Visit colleges that you were unable to visit during the school year.
- Download the Common Application (if the schools that interest you use it) and begin working on your essays.

12th Grade

September

- Try to start your senior year with several schools in mind that you think will accept you and one or two “reaches.” Visit them early in the fall if you haven’t already. Set up admissions interviews at each school. Determine the admissions requirements for each school and make sure you are on track with your courses, GPA, and extracurricular activities.
- Look up the websites for your top choices to find out their procedures and deadlines for applications, scholarships, and financial aid.
- Your family should meet with your counselor to discuss your top choices, the current status of your resume, scholarship information, and whether you will be applying for early decision.
- Finalize your resume and essays if you are applying early decision. Have them proofed by a teacher and your counselor.
- Continue to research scholarships. Collect all of the necessary documents for scholarship and financial aid applications.
- If you are applying for early decision, hand out your recommendation forms and stamped envelopes addressed to the admissions departments of your colleges by the middle of the month.
- Register for the Fall ACT or SAT.

October

- Mail your early decision applications. Most early decision applications are due between October 1st and November 1st. Check your specific colleges for the deadlines. There is usually a date by which the application must be received and not just postmarked.

- Request that St. Luke's send your transcript to your early decision colleges.

November

- Take the SAT or ACT.
- Finish your resume and essays and have them proofed by a teacher and your counselor.

December

- Mail in your applications.
- If you have already been accepted for early decision, withdraw your applications to other colleges.
- Start working with your parents to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You have to submit a FAFSA form in order to apply for Federal student aid and for most state and college student aid. Forms are available at www.FAFSA.ed.gov.

January

- File all Federal financial aid forms as soon after January 1st as possible.
- Fill out applications for state aid.
- Request that St. Luke's send your mid-year grades to your colleges.

February

- Check with your colleges to make sure your application files are complete.

March

- Don't fall into a "senior slump". Your college admission is contingent on your final high school grades.

April

- Compare your financial aid offers and choose your college. Notify the other colleges that you will not be attending. Most colleges require that acceptances be confirmed and deposits made by May 1st. Check with your college to make sure they don't have a different deadline.

Summer

- Request that St. Luke's send your final transcript to your college.
- Plan to attend orientation at your college.
- Check your college's website to find out when your tuition and room and board are due.
- Carefully complete the roommate questionnaire that your college sends you. The more information you provide, the more likely you are to get a compatible roommate.