**Freshman Year**

**How to see your Counselor**

* To make an appointment, students should come to Guidance before/after school, or during lunch.
* Drop in visits are available during conference time, all lunches, and after school.

**Plan for the Year Ahead**

**Fall**

* + Meet with your counselor to discuss your college plans. Review your schedule with her to make sure you are enrolled in challenging classes that will help you prepare for college. Colleges prefer four years of English, history, math, science, and a foreign language.
	+ Use a College Search to find out the required courses and tests of colleges that you might be interested in attending.
	+ Start a calendar with important dates and deadlines.
	+ Get more involved with your extracurricular activities.
	+ Go to college fairs in your area.

**Winter**

**Learn about Colleges**

* + Learn about college costs and how financial aid works.
	+ Use the College Savings Calculator to see how much money you'll need for college, whether you're on track to save enough, and what you need to do to reach your goal. Talk to your parents about financing college.
	+ Visit colleges while they're in session.
	+ Find out about college firsthand from college friends who are home for the holidays.

**Prepare for Tests**

* + Talk to your counselor and teachers about taking SAT and ACT Subject Tests™ in your strong subjects this spring. Take Subject Tests such as World History, Biology E/M, and Chemistry while the material is still fresh in your mind.

**Spring**

**Stay Focused**

* + Sign up for college preparatory courses. Consider AP® courses.

**Explore Summer Opportunities**

* + Look for a great summer opportunity — job, internship, or volunteer position.
	+ Check with your counselor and search online for summer school programs for high school students at colleges.

**Summer**

**Make the Most of Your Break**

* + Work on your summer projects assigned by your teachers.
	+ Plan to visit college campuses to get a feel for your options. Start with colleges near you.
	+ Finalize your summer plans.