THE COLLEGE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

It is never too early to begin planning for college.
The following checklist may help you in preparing for college, beginning where you are now.

9TH GRADE:
- Work closely with counselors to select courses that will prepare you for college;
- Check entrance requirements for a variety of colleges and programs;
- Become involved in school activities;
- Use a career interest inventory to refine career and educational possibilities;
- Review career interest inventory results to explore educational possibilities;
- Visit your College/Career Resource Center;
- Explore volunteer opportunities for the summer; and
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT (October).

10TH GRADE:
- Continue to plan your academic program and maintain involvement in school activities;
- Make sure your high school program is meeting career and college admissions requirements;
- Review career interest inventory results to explore career and educational possibilities; and
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT (October).

11TH GRADE:
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT to qualify for scholarship consideration (October);
- Review your academic and extracurricular program — Are you prepared for a career/college?
- Begin writing colleges for detailed information;
- Narrow down your college choices;
- Visit schools which interest you (Spring-Summer);
- Attend a National College Fair;
- Discuss finances with parents/guardians;
- Investigate ROTC application;
- Begin application process for military academies;
- Attend a Financial Aid Workshop (December, January, February);
- Attend the Prince George’s County College Fair;
- Take SAT I workshops and/or enroll in the SAT course offered at your school, prior to taking the test;
- Take the SAT I and/or ACT (Spring);
- Explore early decision options at colleges;
- Take SAT II and Advanced Placement tests (May);
- Develop your resume for use with college recommendations (Summer); and
- Investigate summer courses and programs offered to juniors by colleges.

12TH GRADE:
- Find out about your school’s transcript request process;
- Apply to take the SAT I or ACT (if you haven’t already taken them or if you want to improve your scores, consider taking a refresher SAT workshop and/or the SAT course);
- Apply to take the SAT II tests;
- Apply to take the TOEFL (students who have taken ESOL);
- Apply for college admissions (Fall);
- Investigate early decision programs — check deadline (September, October);
- Continue campus visits;
- Attend the National College Fair;
- Apply for college housing early (University of Maryland, December);
- Make sure your letters of recommendation are completed (November, December);
- Attend financial aid night (December, January, February);
- Apply for financial aid (January, March; by February 1 for the University of Maryland);
- Attend the Prince George’s College Fair (in the evening);
- Take Advanced Placement tests (May);
- Take the SAT Prep class prior to taking the test;
- Take time to decide which college is “right” for you; and
- Weigh the college’s offer against your personal and financial requirements (May).