College Planning Checklist and Timeline

Freshman Year

☐ Get to know your school counselor
☐ Aim for high grades; pay attention to your school work
☐ Get involved with extra-curricular activities and volunteer service
☐ Discuss your academic and career planning with your family
☐ Make course selections that suit your academic abilities and interests
☐ Start your activities list/resume

Sophomore Year

☐ Take the practice PSAT in October
☐ Stay in touch with your counselor; develop relationships with your teachers
☐ Start thinking and talking about your possible career interests
☐ Continue your commitment to your classes, activities, and service
☐ Start the college exploration process; visit some campuses if possible
☐ Plan to take classes that are challenging but allow you to maintain a balance
☐ Explore your interests, both during the school year and over the summer
☐ Update your resume with new activities, honors, etc.

Junior Year

☐ Attend college fairs, information sessions and open houses as appropriate
☐ Participate in college visits to the Career Center in the fall
☐ Continue your exploration of careers that might interest you
☐ Continue your commitment to your classes, activities, and service
☐ Continue developing relationships with your counselors and teachers
☐ Talk with your family about college costs; attend Financial Aid Night
☐ Take the SAT and/or ACT in the spring to see which suits you better
☐ Do your college research; visit colleges; narrow your list
☐ Discuss your plans for classes and college with your counselor and your family
☐ Make academic choices that challenge you but don’t overwhelm you
☐ Attend the spring series of College Planning Workshops for juniors at WPHS
☐ Ask your teachers for recommendation letters
☐ Keep your resume/activities list up to date

**Rising Seniors (Summer)**

☐ Plan for a meaningful summer job, internship or volunteer activity
☐ Register (and prepare for) one last SAT or ACT to take in the fall
☐ Prepare your final list of colleges you plan to apply to
☐ Complete your college visits, if necessary
☐ Check the websites of your colleges of deadlines and requirements
☐ Get a jump on your college essays
☐ Consider attending the Common App Workshops held at WPHS in Aug/Sept.

**Senior Year**

☐ Review and pay attention to the “Senior Packet” given to all seniors in September
☐ Complete your spreadsheet/list of colleges with deadlines and requirements
☐ Remember that scholarship deadlines sometimes come first
☐ Attend Financial Aid Night at WPHS; file the FAFSA in October
☐ Register (last chance) for any SAT/ACT/Subject test you still need to take
☐ Follow up on your teacher recommendations
☐ Submit your transcript request form to your school counselor
☐ Keep your grades up – colleges can rescind offers if you slack off senior year
☐ Work diligently (well before the deadline) on your applications
☐ Send your official SAT/ACT scores to your colleges
☐ Submit your college applications well in advance of deadlines
☐ File the CSS Profile only if required by your colleges
☐ If you are admitted Early Decision, withdraw your other applications.
☐ Review your acceptances and award packages in the spring
☐ Make your final choice and deposit to that college by May 1
☐ Complete your Senior Survey in May (where WPHS will send your final transcript)
☐ Enjoy Prom and Graduation!