

FABIUS-POMPEY GUIDANCE OFFICE

College Preparatory Activities By Grade Level

7th Grade

- Choose acceleration coursework if appropriate
- Begin self assessment of learning style, strengths, and areas for improvement
- Improve study skills, and homework habits

8th Grade

- Develop strong academic 4 year program, including Honors and AP classes
- Begin an activity resume – save on computer or disc for annual update
- Consider participating in clubs, activities, athletics, volunteering

9th Grade

- Round out a challenging academic program by taking electives to broaden your experiences
- Consider starting a college savings account
- Begin to visit colleges campuses – just to get general overall impressions of campus size, geographic location, campus resources

10th Grade

- Take the PLAN test (practice ACT), review the career inventory, as well as the scores
- View college web sites to familiarize yourself with admissions criteria – how do you compare?
- Be involved – extra-curricular activities can develop your talents
- Save a part of any earnings from part time jobs
- Consider some job “shadowing” experiences with family or relatives, to investigate career options
- This is the year to begin putting together your academic strengths, interests, and values as you plan future options

11th Grade

- Take the PSAT test (practice test) to identify areas for improvement
- Contact colleges of interest to get information on admissions, majors, scholarships, etc.
- Review your academic and activity profile – how do you measure up with college requirements?
- Update your activity resume with any awards, honors, part-time jobs, extra-curricular involvement, etc.
- Use guidance resources/internet to develop a potential college list, and explore scholarship opportunities
- Review NCAA guidelines if applicable
- Contact college coaches if you plan to participate on college teams
- Attend parent nights/college fairs for college information
- Meet with your guidance counselor to review your college search plans
- Consider taking an SAT review class
- Take the SAT, ACT at least once this year, and appropriate SAT II's

11th Grade (continued)

- Continue to visit campuses to determine what fits you best
- Review financial plans with your family – will you need to apply to a “financial back-up” college if you receive little or no aid?
- Develop a comprehensive list of colleges that you are considering for application
- Save money from a summer job – every little bit will help

12th Grade

- **CONTINUE WITH A CHALLENGING PROGRAM FOR YOUR SENIOR YEAR!**
- Determine which colleges you will apply to – obtain applications if you do not have them
- Investigate on-line applications – it can save you the application fee for some colleges
- Check with your counselor about your progress – are these colleges the right “fit” for you?
- Ask for teacher recommendations early
- Update and finalize your activity resume
- Take your SAT, at least once more, and SAT II’s which your colleges may require
- Review your college essay with teachers, counselor
- Set up campus visits to your colleges
- Complete all required financial aid forms for your college (Profile, FAFSA)
- Continue to investigate scholarships and grants
- By May 1st, decide on your college choice, and make a deposit
- Complete all paperwork that comes from the college such as housing, meal plans, orientation registration, etc.
- Investigate loans, if necessary, with the college financial aid office or your bank