

FABIUS-POMPEY GUIDANCE OFFICE

College Preparatory Activities by Grade Level

7th Grade

- 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 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 college's campuses – just to get general overall impressions of campus size, geographic location, and campus resources.

10th Grade

- Take the PACT 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.
- Considers 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 SAT 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.
- 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 and which websites to use.
- 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 if your colleges require them.
- Review your college essay with teachers, counselors.
- Set up campus visits to your colleges.
- Complete all required financial aid forms for your college (Profile, FAFSA, TAP) in early fall.
- 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.