College Planning Timeline

Spring of Junior Year
✓ College visits - try to visit while the college is in session
✓ Sign up for initial interviews and tours
✓ Sign up for and take standardized tests - SAT, ACT, SAT II, subject tests
✓ Senior course selection
  o Sign up for academic classes in your senior year that will challenge you
  o The 3 primary criteria most colleges look at when making admissions decisions are GPA, SAT/ACT scores, and the rigor of the courses you have taken
✓ Ask teachers for letters of recommendation
  o You will officially request recommendations through Naviance, but it is a good idea to touch base with teachers in person as well

End of Junior Year
✓ Begin to narrow down your list of colleges
  o Use the information you have gathered through research and visits to refine your list
  o Enter prospective colleges into Naviance
✓ Review SAT results and GPA
  o College list should be refined to reflect estimates of the student’s admissibility to each school
  o Information about each college’s admissions requirements can be found in Naviance
✓ A good number to shoot for at this point is 6-10 colleges on your list
✓ Complete the Student Self-Assessment, Game Plan Survey, and Parent Questionnaire

Summer of Junior Year
✓ Visit, visit, visit!
✓ Determine the application procedure for each school on your list
✓ Read, search the internet, ask questions!!!!!
✓ Start applications
✓ Begin working on your essay
✓ Do something interesting -
  o Get a job
  o Attend a summer program
  o Volunteer

Senior Year
✓ Early Decision/Early Action applicants meet early with their college counselors to make certain everything can be ready by the deadlines
✓ First Deadline: November 1
Senior Year continues

✓ Meetings with College Counselor
✓ Request teacher recommendations (if you haven’t already)
✓ Complete applications. Be sure to give your counselor enough lead time to complete his/her work!
✓ SAT and ACT testing
✓ Financial Aid Paperwork
  o FAFSA
  o CSS Profile
  o Individual School Forms