

## What should I have already done? (There's still time, but do it SOON!)

- If you don't know your code for Naviance, get it now! Get familiar with Naviance. Naviance website is: <http://connection.naviance.com/bensonpths>.
- Meet with your counselor to talk about your goals, career aspirations, the schools you are considering, etc. Your parents may want to go along, too.
- Make sure you signed up for challenging classes senior year.
- Have a C or above in all of your core classes? If not, sign up for summer school with your counselor.
- If you are on free/reduced lunch, you qualify for a fee waiver to take the SAT/ACT. See the counseling secretary to pick up your waiver.

## For this Summer ...

- Work, travel and/or volunteer.
- If possible, visit college campuses and/or attend college summer academic programs.
- Fill out the survey "How to Get A Letter of Recommendation" in Naviance.
- Explore careers and job opportunities based on your career assessment tests in Naviance. Talk to your parents and your friends' parents about what they do and the path they took to get there.
- Look into requirements for the colleges to which you are applying. Make sure you have taken the required classes, or are scheduled to do so before graduation. Check with the colleges about specific testing requirements (i.e. need to take a subject test).
- Develop a portfolio that demonstrates the kind of student you are. A portfolio can include copies of your resume, awards and other certificates, letters of recommendation and/or a references list, samples of your work, and any other tangible proof of your accomplishments.
- Begin to prepare essays for college admissions and scholarship applications (see the back page).
- If you haven't taken the SAT/ACT or want to retake it, register in the summer for the early fall (website on the back). Our school code is 380-840. Fee waivers are available for students on free/reduced lunch.
- Begin to make a list of scholarships you will apply for, include deadlines and application requirements.
- If you are interested in playing athletics in college, register with the NCAA eligibility center.
- Contact appropriate persons for ROTC scholarships and Academy appointments.
- Read, read, read, read ,read, read, READ!

## Helpful Websites

- Register for the SAT: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) (late deadline 5/17 for June 1<sup>st</sup> test)
- Register for the ACT: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) (late deadline 5/17 for June 8th test)
- Start the Common Application: [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) (See below to get a head start on personal essays!)
- Scholarship Search: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- College Search: <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

## Common Application Essay Questions

Remember that the earlier you start, the better your essay will be! In 650 words or less (though must be more than 250 words!):

- Some students have a background or story that is so central to their identity that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what lessons did you learn?
- Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
- Describe a place or environment where you are perfectly content. What do you do or experience there, and why is it meaningful to you?
- Discuss an accomplishment or event (formal or informal) that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

## Helpful Books in the College Search

- Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools That Will Change the Way You Think About Colleges, by Loren Pope
- Fiske Guide to Getting into the Right College, by Edward Fiske
- The Financial Aid Handbook: Getting the Education You Want for the Price You Can Afford, by Carol Stack
- College Admission, Step by Step, by Robin Mamlet and Christine VandeVeld

*Check the College & Career Center or the library for these and more!*