

College Planning Checklist for Class of 2018 Grads Post-High School Planning for Students at New Trier Township High School

Overall considerations

__ Students, take your junior grades seriously; they may be among the most important grades considered in the admission process.

__ In addition, please take your relationships with your teachers seriously; you will need letters of recommendation which should be written by one or two junior year teachers. Build good relationships with them. *Your behavior, attitudes and citizenship count as much as your intellectual prowess and class preparation.*

September, October, November, December

__ The National College Fair will be held at McCormick Place on Saturday, October first from 11 am until 3PM. Some 350 colleges will be represented.

__ Students interested in participating or studying music in college should consider attending the October 6th Northshore Music Fair at Northwestern University from 7 to 9PM in the Center for Musical Arts. Parents are also welcome. Over fifty colleges are represented, and additional information is here:

<http://www.music.northwestern.edu/admission/visit-us.html>

__ Attend CHOICES at Lake Forest High School on Monday, October 17 at 5:30 PM to learn about college programs for students with disabilities.

__ Students register for the PSAT in adviser room and take the test on October 19th. Even if you do not plan to take the SAT, having PSAT scores will allow you to see if you achieve higher scores naturally on an SAT or ACT. The tests are quite similar now.

__ *The Post High School Planning Guide: Four Steps to the Future* arrives in your home.

__ Parents attend an evening meeting on either November 16 (parents of girls) or 17 (parents of boys) in Cornog at 7 PM to hear an overview of the process. Students will hear this information in their daily adviser room.

__ In December students complete and submit post-high school forms in advisor room; without it, any scheduled meeting with your counselor will be cancelled.

January

__ Begin investigating schools on your own through your Naviance account search engine or www.collegeboard.com's Big Future search.

__ Parents can call 847/784-2234 or 784-2233 from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM on appointed days to schedule the first post-high school appointment in February- May. Both a parent and the student attend; make sure before the parent calls, he or she knows when the student has free periods during the school day. Specific days are listed on the handout provided at the November meetings, mailed home in December, and on the post-high school webpage.

__ Counselors will visit adviser rooms to discuss senior year course selection options and PSAT interpretation.

February

- _ Meetings with individual post-high school counselors begin.
- _ Review *Four Steps to the Future* that arrived in your home in October.
- _ **Build a senior year schedule for success.** Students are still building a case for admission and should select a challenging but not overwhelming course load. **Choose at least four “solids” from any combination of the five traditional academic subjects: English, social studies, mathematics, laboratory science, and foreign language.**
Note: Enrollment in one or more AP courses is NOT going to “get you into” a different set of schools. Also, geography is NOT required to go to college in Oregon, Colorado or California. **A full year of one art, theatre, music, or dance course (not debate) is required** for the University of California system.
- _ Consider registering for the SAT and/or ACT in April, May or June. Students considering *highly* selective schools may also need to complete an SAT Subject Test in May or June. Please make sure you take the writing section of the ACT as some schools require it.

March

- _ **Your unofficial transcript arrives in your home; check it for accuracy.**
- _ Use New Trier’s Career Center (room 230) for career information.
- _ Meet with college representatives during free periods in the school day. The PHSC web page has scheduled visits listed, as does Naviance under “Scheduled Visits.” Passes are not written; you may meet with the rep during a free period or secure permission ahead of time from a teacher to miss part of a class in order to attend.
- _ Plan to visit any campuses in which you are *very* interested. Call ahead to make sure you can attend an admission session and take a campus tour.

April

- _ New Trier juniors will take a state-supported SAT on April 5, and a district-supported ACT on Wednesday, April 19. Students are not required to do any outside registration for this.
- _ Consider attending a college fair to meet visiting representatives. This year’s fair where New Trier students are invited is:
March 21, 2017 at Niles West High School from 6:30 to 8:30 PM
- _ Continue to meet with your post-high school counselor to determine your plans for beyond New Trier. You should meet with your counselor every three to four weeks after spring break and after you have completed your homework for each meeting. Counselors are also in the office during the summer to work with you.

May

- _ If you are interested in very competitive schools, register for and complete any two SAT Subject Tests – choose the disciplines in which you are well-versed, but also check college webpages for any specific, required exams. Completing the SAT Subject Tests in May or June for a course you are finishing as a junior will ensure your mind is refreshed with the subject matter. SAT Subject Tests are also administered in October and November of your senior year.

