

## Eleventh Grade

The heat is on! Take a deep breath. Let it out. You will have a lot to do this year. You can do it! **“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13**

\_\_ Update your college file at the end of each grading period. Remember to include any summer work or service projects.

### Tests, Tests, Tests

\_\_ Take the PSAT. You must take it this year to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Awards. It is also excellent practice for the SAT. The PSAT is only offered in October.

\_\_ Prepare for the SAT and/or the ACT. You can enhance your preparation by reading! You may get practice tests from your counselor. There are many materials available through bookstores and websites – workbooks, flashcards, computer programs, etc. to help you prepare and practice for these tests.

\_\_ Take the SAT/ACT in the spring. You may also need to take achievement tests for some of the more selective schools. Check the requirements for each school to which you plan to apply. Your counselor can provide you with test dates and other testing information. Check the deadlines. You usually have to register about a month before the exam date.

### Looking at Colleges

\_\_ Attend college fairs and presentations by college representatives. Fill out inquiry cards from colleges so that your name can be added to their mailing lists to receive a catalog and an application. Your counselor can help you do a college search and has some catalogs and applications available in the Guidance office.

\_\_ Create a file on colleges and universities that appeal to you. Look through college handbooks and catalogs at your school, bookstores or a library.

\_\_ Think about the type of college you would like—small or large, urban or rural, public or private.

\_\_\_Arrange to take tours of the colleges you are most interested in. Ask questions and take notes! Some schools will also arrange for an overnight stay to let you experience “dorm life.”

\_\_\_Make a file for information about scholarships, eligibility requirements and deadlines. Ask family members to investigate scholarships offered by their employers or organizations, such as clubs they belong to. See your counselor about financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

### **Summer between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

\_\_\_Where is all that college material you have been receiving—under the bed or in the closet? Get it out! Start reading and comparing requirements for admission and financial aid. If you have not received information or applications from a college you are interested in, request it right away!

\_\_\_Visit college campuses and talk with admission officers and students while you are there.

\_\_\_This summer is the perfect time to write any essays that are needed for college applications and/or scholarships!

\_\_\_Make a final list of colleges to which you will definitely apply for admission. Choose at least five schools. One should be a “safety”school – one you are sure you will get into and where the cost is affordable.