

POTEET HIGH SCHOOL **COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE**

11th GRADE

- Focus firmly on grades. This is the last year to acquire a strong GPA for college admissions applications next fall.
 - Consider a PSAT prep course based on 10th grade results if they showed potential for National Merit consideration. Otherwise, use the 11th grade PSAT as a baseline score from which to prep for next spring's SAT's and ACT's.
 - Apply in early September for special test accommodations if you regularly use them in class & need them for the PSAT.
- * The NCAA recommends that student athletes register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at the **beginning of their junior year** in high school, but many students register after their junior year. There is no registration deadline, but students must be cleared by the clearinghouse before they receive athletic scholarships or compete at a Division I or Division II institution.
- Attend College Night. Talk to college representatives and begin to establish contact with various schools of interest to you.
 - Talk with college representatives when they visit the high school. They can eventually be your "best friends" at the college admission selection table when applications are reviewed.
 - Take the PSAT in October. National Merit Scholarship Competition is determined from the junior-year PSAT.
 - Consider an SAT/ACT prep course after receiving PSAT scores in December. PSAT scores can be used as SAT predictors within approximate ranges. They can also indicate areas of strength and weakness that students can work on before taking the first SAT and ACT during the latter part of the junior year.
 - Complete a credit check with your counselor. Get on the Internet and review specific course requirements for admission at colleges of interest to you. You'll be better prepared to select appropriate senior-year courses if you do this research early.
 - Register for strong senior classes. Course selection is very important to most colleges. They want to see you challenging yourself in the classroom. Your senior year schedule will be submitted as part of your college applications next fall.
 - Sign up to take both the SAT and the ACT in the spring of the junior year. You can retest in the fall of the senior year.
 - Check with your counselor for additional application forms if you regularly use and will need special test accommodations.
 - Continue to work on service hours. Consider running for leadership positions during your senior year.
 - Get on the Internet and "investigate" the college home pages. Go to www.mesquiteisd.org/phs -- Then go to Counseling, then to Academic Planning Links.
 - Visit college campuses. Begin to narrow down choices. (Juniors are allowed 2 days for college visits.)
 - Make your summer "meaningful". Consider internships, enrichment programs on college campuses, work experiences, etc.
 - Begin to develop your resume.

12th GRADE

- Sign up for the SAT or ACT. Continue test prep if appropriate.
- * The NCAA recommends that student athletes register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at the **beginning of their junior year** in high school, but many students register after their junior year. There is no registration deadline, but students must be cleared by the clearinghouse before they receive athletic scholarships or compete at a Division I or Division II institution.
- Make plans to visit college campuses of interest to you.
 - Become aware of application deadlines.
 - Follow application directions for each college and mail all applications on time (preferably by December 1st).
 - Check on the financial aid and scholarship process at the colleges you are considering. Meet application deadlines.
 - Finish the senior year strong. College admission is based on "successful completion of high school".
 - Enjoy your senior year! You've earned it!