

## 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COUNSELING CALENDAR

### August - September

- Double check your graduation status and A-G eligibility in Aeries, and see your counselor to make a schedule change if you are missing a requirement. Be sure not to drop a required course later in the school year.
- Conduct research on the admissions qualifications for the college(s) of your choice. Review your academic record, determine any areas in which you may need to improve, and get suggestions on how to strengthen your candidacy for the schools you are considering.
- Maintain or improve your grades. Colleges look closely at your 11<sup>th</sup> grade year, including grades and courses taken.
- Review the schedules for the [SAT and SAT Subject Test](#), [ACT](#) with [Writing](#), and [AP](#) exams, and create a tentative testing timeline for yourself. Determine if you should take these exams and how they could benefit you. If so, **register early** and prepare for the exams you decide to take. **SAT and ACT are not required for community college.** The earliest you should take the SAT or ACT with Writing is January or February. See your counselor if you have questions about when the best time for you take these exams is.
- Register for the [PSAT](#) exam offered in October. The 11<sup>th</sup> grade PSAT score counts toward the [National Achievement Program](#) (and it is good practice for the SAT). By taking the PSAT/NMSQT, you may qualify to enter the competitions for prestigious scholarships and participate in recognition programs.
- Participate in [extracurricular activities](#) that you truly enjoy. This is important not only because discovering your passions is a significant part of life, but also because college admission representatives seek candidates that have direction or an identified passion, and use their time in a valuable manner.
- Consider going on [campus tours at colleges of interest](#). You and your parent(s) may want to visit the colleges and universities during breaks and summer vacation, so that you do not miss school, however you may get a better feel for the college's student climate if you visit the campus while students are in session.

### December – January

- Scores from the October administration of the [PSAT](#) will be returned. Review your results in order to identify your strengths and to determine the areas that you may need to improve. Depending on the results, you may want to consider further preparation before taking the SAT. CollegeBoard offers [free test preparation](#) on their website.
- Note each college application deadline and which tests are required. Make sure you take required tests early enough for colleges to receive official test scores. Take the SAT and/or ACT in the spring to allow you time to review your results and re-take the exams in the fall of 12<sup>th</sup> grade, if necessary.
- Update your résumé, and use [California Colleges](#) interest profiler and career search features to identify potential careers and majors

### February – June

- Attend the 11<sup>th</sup> grade presentation. This presentation will give you tips on how to best prepare for the college application process in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and discuss other post- high school options.
- Use the *college search* tools on the [SDUHSD website](#). This is a great way to search for colleges that fit the criteria you are looking for (location, size, cost, majors offered, admissions rates, etc...)
- Begin creating a list of colleges you would like to apply to. Research admissions statistics and college information to determine whether you have a good mix of likely, target, and reach schools on your list. Complete this [college research worksheet](#) to organize your research and see whether you have a strategic list.

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- If appropriate, take the [SAT](#) if you are enrolled in English 11 or AP English Language and are enrolled in or completed or Integrated Math III.
- If appropriate, take the [ACT](#) with [Writing](#) if you are enrolled in or completed Alg II/Trig Honors, Math Analysis w/ Trig, OR Integrated Math III and are enrolled in or completed English 11 or AP English Language.
- You can take up to three [SAT Subject Tests](#) in different subject areas *if* the colleges or programs you plan to apply to require or recommended them.
- Attend the SDUHSD College Fair and other similar college fairs in the community. Notices are posted on the website or in the College & Career Center.
- Take the Advanced Placement exams if you have taken any AP classes.
- Consider taking a summer course at a local community college or at a college or university that offers a program that genuinely interests you. This may require some research. Notices regarding summer programs are posted in the Counseling Newsletter and summer course catalogs can be found online on the individual community colleges websites.

### Summer before Senior Year

- If you are able, go on [campus tours at colleges and universities of interest](#).
- Based on your test results, determine if it is necessary for you to re-take SAT or ACT in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Start rough drafts of personal essay and short answer portions of college applications, and update your résumé of extracurricular activities and accomplishments.
- Determine if you are going to apply [early decision or early action](#) to any college. Most application deadlines are *sometime* between October and December of 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Only apply early to the college/university that is your absolute first choice. Your chances will be greater if you *well exceed* the college's admission profile.
- If you able, seek employment or possibly an internship.