APPLYING TO COLLEGE
CHECKLISTS

First Year
- Start developing a 4-year plan! Consider taking honors and AP classes in the future.
- Explore your interests! Get involved in interesting extracurricular activities.
- Figure out your graduation and community service requirements. Plan a schedule where you will be able to finish them on time.
- Meet and get to know your guidance counselor.

Sophomore Year
- Schedule a meeting with your counselor or college counselor to discuss college plans.
- Start thinking about making a college list (location preference, academic interest, campus environment).
- Start preparing for standardized tests (ie: PSAT or prep-ACT if your school offers).
- Consider taking AP/honors/college classes in the upcoming school year.
- Consider applying to summer activities and other enrichment opportunities (internships, jobs, camps, LEDA, PSJP, PUPP, Questbridge).

Junior Year
- Start looking for scholarships!
- Arrange campus visits with colleges that you’re interested in.
- Study for the SAT/ACT in the fall and take the SAT/ACT in the spring!
- Build relationships with teachers who would be willing to write you recommendation letters.

Senior Year
- Make a list of deadlines for each school you’re applying to so you can stay on track.
- Start writing your college essay(s) early!
- Complete application for financial aid as early as possible (FAFSA, CSS Profile, school-specific apps).
- Retake the SAT/ACT if necessary.
- Ask teachers for letters of recommendation and get transcripts from your guidance counselor.