

College Preparation

9th Grade

- Take your studies seriously and explore extracurricular opportunities. Set academic goals for the year.
- Create a system for keeping up with your extracurricular activities, leadership positions, community service, honors, awards, summer experiences, and jobs. Update your extracurricular activities each semester.
- Evaluate your grades each quarter and determine what you are doing well and what you need to improve. Remember that you are building your record for college admission beginning in your freshman year. If you are struggling in a class, ask your teacher about tutoring.
- During second semester, schedule a meeting to plan your 10th grade class schedule.
- Turn in your service hours to Mrs. Burroughs (minimum of 25 hours) by April 14, 2022.
- If applicable, turn in your Non-Grace Credit Forms to Mrs. Lewis by April 28, 2022.

College Preparation

10th Grade

- Update the extracurricular activities list you began in 9th grade and review your academic goals.
- The PSAT will be given at Grace Academy on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 from 8:30 – 12:15 for 10th and 11th graders. This test is just for practice for 10th graders. Those who are interested in taking the PSAT should **sign up starting August 30, 2021 through September 16, 2021** (or until all spots are taken). The cost of taking the PSAT is \$20.00. Please put your payment (cash or check) in an envelope with your student's name and PSAT written on the envelope. You may give the envelope to the person at the front desk. Your name will not go on the list until your payment is received. Space is limited!
- If family travels bring you near a college or university, consider an informal visit.
- Start researching colleges on the Web to get an idea of what may interest you.
- During second semester, schedule a meeting to plan your 11th grade class schedule and to review your graduation checklist.
- Turn in your service hours to Mrs. Burroughs (minimum of 25 hours) by April 14, 2022.
- If applicable, turn in your Non-Grace Credit Forms to Mrs. Lewis by April 28, 2022.

College Preparation

11th Grade

September

- Review your academic goals and continue to update the activities list you began in the 9th grade.
- Take advantage of the Internet; the websites of the various colleges and universities can be useful tools for college exploration.
- The PSAT will be given at Grace Academy on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 from 8:30 – 12:15 for 10th and 11th graders. While this is still a practice test for the SAT, juniors who score exceptionally well on the PSAT may be considered for participation in the National Merit Scholarship competition. Those who are interested in taking the PSAT should **sign up starting August 30, 2021 through September 16, 2021** (or until all spots are taken). The cost of taking the PSAT is \$20.00. Please put your payment (cash or check) in an envelope with your student's name and PSAT written on the envelope. You may give the envelope to the person at the front desk. Your name will not go on the list until your payment is received. Space is limited!
- If you choose to take the SAT and/or ACT in the fall, register online. For the SAT, register at collegeboard.org. For the ACT, register at actstudent.org. Some of the local testing centers are Myers Park High School, East Mecklenburg High School, Providence High School, Providence Day School, Union Academy Charter School, and Sun Valley High School. The SAT is being offered on 10/2/21 (registration deadline, 9/3/21), 11/6/21 (registration deadline, 10/8/21), and 12/4/21 (registration deadline, 11/4/21). The ACT is being offered on 9/11/21 (registration deadline, 8/06/21), 10/23/21 (registration deadline, 9/17/21), and 12/11/21 (registration deadline, 11/5/21). Some dates for the SAT and the ACT may be added or deleted due to COVID-19.

October

- Take the PSAT on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at Grace Academy from 8:30 – 12:30. (You must sign up and pay for the test by September 16, 2021. It is first come first serve. See Mrs. Lewis for more information.)
- Begin to establish criteria for the type of college that you would like to attend. Use college guides to find schools that meet your criteria. Talk to family, friends, and teachers about their college choices and experiences.

11th Grade College Preparation (Cont.)

November

- Evaluate your first quarter grades and determine what you are doing well and what you need to improve to meet your academic goals for the year. The grade point average provided to colleges when you apply is cumulative through the end of the junior year.

December

- PSAT student reports are distributed. Read the information carefully to interpret your performance.
 - Register for the SAT and/or ACT. The SAT is being offered on 3/12/22 (registration deadline, 2/11/22), 5/7/22 (registration deadline, 4/8/22) and 6/4/22 (registration deadline, 5/5/22). The ACT is being offered on 2/12/22 (registration deadline, 1/7/22), 4/2/22 (registration deadline, 2/5/22), and 6/11/22 (registration deadline, 5/6/22). Some dates for the SAT and the ACT may be added or deleted due to COVID-19.

January

- Prepare for the SAT and/or ACT.
- Look ahead to spring break/summer as possible opportunities to visit colleges.

February

- Continue your college research.
- Consider signing up for an AP Exam if you are doing well in an Honors course. The exams are given in May, but you need to sign up in February. Contact Mrs. Lewis.
- Schedule a meeting with Mrs. Lewis to plan your 12th grade class schedule and to review your graduation checklist.

March

- Continue researching colleges.
- Utilize your spring break for college visits.
- When you visit college campuses, be sure to ask questions, talk to college students, and keep a notebook of what you liked and disliked about each campus visited.

April

- Begin to consider which teachers could best prepare college recommendations for you. Make formal requests to at least two teachers by the end of April. Turn in completed Recommendation Request Forms to Mrs. Lewis.
- Turn in your service hours to Mrs. Burroughs (minimum of 25 hours) by April 14, 2022.
- If applicable, turn in your Non-Grace Credit Forms to Mrs. Lewis by April 28, 2022.

11th Grade College Preparation (Cont.)

May-July

- Spend your summer productively.
- Continue to narrow your college list. You should aim for a final list of 6-8 schools.
- Visit colleges you did not see during the school year.
- Not all schools require interviews. Find out if the schools you are interested in require an interview. If possible, interview at a college that is not a first-choice school for you. Then schedule interviews when possible.
- Visit www.commonapp.org or individual college websites to preview applications and essay questions.
- Not all schools will require essays. Find out if the schools you are interested in require an essay. Begin to consider essay topics. Look for opportunities to use an essay for more than one application. Complete rough drafts of essay topics and all applications before school resumes. You will be glad that you did!

College Preparation

12th Grade

August

- Note all registration deadlines for fall ACT, SAT and SAT Subject Tests and complete registration promptly. Read your applications carefully to determine which, if any, Subject Tests are required for admission. Grace Academy's test code or CEEB Code is 340-641. Some schools are not requiring test scores this year.
- For the SAT, register at collegeboard.org. For the ACT, register at actstudent.org. Some of the local testing centers are Myers Park High School, East Mecklenburg High School, Providence High School, Providence Day School, Union Academy Charter School, and Sun Valley High School. The SAT is being offered on 10/2/21 (registration deadline, 9/3/21), 11/6/21 (registration deadline, 10/8/21), and 12/4/21 (registration deadline, 11/4/21). The ACT is being offered on 9/11/21 (registration deadline, 8/06/21), 10/23/21 (registration deadline, 9/17/21), and 12/11/21 (registration deadline, 11/5/21). Some dates for the SAT and the ACT may be added or deleted due to COVID-19.
- Update your final list of college choices—know your deadlines!
- Begin work on all Early Action/Early Decision/ and Rolling applications.
- You will need to give your colleges and universities copies of your high school transcript. Grace Academy will prepare your records and send them to the school(s) of choice. These records will include all of your classes and grades taken 9th – 12th grades. You will need to complete a Transcript Request Form and pay a fee of \$10 for each Official Transcript. ***You need to allow 2 weeks for your transcripts to be completed.***
- Make sure your name is consistent on all college-related documents.
- Make requests for teacher recommendations, if you did not do this in April. Turn in completed Recommendation Request Forms to Mrs. Lewis. Allow them 2 weeks to complete your recommendations.
- By September 2, turn in Non-Grace Credit Forms to Mrs. Lewis for any classes that will be taken outside of Grace Academy, with everything filled out except the grades.

September

- Attend Senior Orientation Night at Grace Academy on September 20, 2021.
- Complete all Early Action/Early Decision/Rolling applications. We highly recommend submitting these applications in early October. As with all applications, keep copies of everything.

12th Grade College Preparation (Cont.)

- Retake the ACT, if applicable.

October

- See your teachers, peers, and college counselor to perfect your college essays.
- Complete any Early Decision/Early Action applications at least two weeks before the college's due date—in some cases, this will mean OCTOBER 1st.
- If you plan to seek financial aid and are applying to private colleges and selective state universities, complete PROFILE. PROFILE gives families and colleges an early read on a student's eligibility for financial aid. Visit The College Board website at www.collegeboard.org and select "CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE" under "Planning for College" and then "Pay for College".
- Retake SAT or Subject Tests, if applicable.
- Note financial aid application deadlines and complete FAFSA. It is required in order to receive any need-based financial aid. The application can be found online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Colleges' aid deadlines must be met or aid may not be available. All colleges recommend submitting the forms as soon as possible after Oct. 1st.

November

- Finalize the remainder of your applications. All should be completed by DEC. 1st.
- Request transcripts by December 2, 2021 if the schools will need your transcript by January 6, 2022.
- Retake SAT or Subject Tests, if applicable.

December

- Complete all remaining applications by DEC. 1st.
- Enjoy Christmas Break!

January-February

- By January 6th, turn in Non-Grace Credit Forms to Mrs. Lewis for any new classes that will be taken outside of Grace Academy during 2nd semester, with everything filled out except the grades. Turn in mid-year grades for yearlong classes and final grades for 1st semester classes.
- Complete any last-minute applications (although many deadlines have now passed).

12th Grade College Preparation (Cont.)

- Early Decision/Early Action deferrals should submit additional information to the colleges to update their applications and reiterate interest.
- Complete all scholarship applications that have not been submitted.

March

- Colleges notify students of admission decisions from early March through early April.
- If placed on the waiting list of a school you would like to attend, send additional information to update and support your application at this time. Showing strong interest by staying in touch is important.

April

- Notify the college you will attend prior to May 1st (Common Reply Date) and notify all other colleges of your decision, as well. This helps colleges predict their yield and make decisions on wait-list candidates.
- Notify Mrs. Lewis of your college choice and provide her with a copy of your acceptance letter(s) for your file.
- Fill out a Transcript Request Form and provide payment so that we can send your final transcript following graduation.
- Contact the financial aid office at the college you will attend with any questions concerning your financial aid package.
- If you wish to remain active on a wait-list, be sure to notify the college before May 1st (Common Reply Date).
- Turn in your service hours to Mrs. Burroughs (minimum of 25 hours) by April 14, 2022.
- Turn in Non-Grace Forms by April 28, 2022.

May

- Be sure that your deposit reaches the college of your choice by May 1st.
- Turn in a Transcript Request with your \$10.00 payment to have your final transcript (final grades and graduation date) sent to the school you plan to attend in the fall. Final transcripts requested in May will be sent after graduation.
- Congratulations on your graduation from Grace Academy! Enjoy the summer – you are going to college!