

Ready, Set, Go TO COLLEGE



A COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLERS



GET ORGANIZED:

- ☐ Assist your child in setting goals. Help them develop a plan to reach that goal and ways to stay motivated.
- ☐ Create a calendar together.



EXPLORE INTERESTS:

- ☐ Discuss extracurriculars.
- ☐ Talk about reading.



TALK MONEY:

- ☐ Start thinking and discussing about how you will finance your college education.



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A COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS OF FRESHMAN



GET ORGANIZED:

- ☐ Set goals for the year.
- ☐ Schedule next year's classes.



EXPLORE INTERESTS:

- ☐ Meet with high school counselor and take personality/career interest quizzes.
- ☐ Discuss what would be the most valuable plan for their summer.



TALK MONEY:

- ☐ Determine how much you should be saving for college.



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A COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS OF SOPHOMORES



GET ORGANIZED:

- ☐ Talk about the PSAT and other exam prep options.
- ☐ Take the PSAT.
- ☐ Make a college wish list together.



EXPLORE INTERESTS:

- ☐ Discuss next year's classes. Evaluate whether your student should enroll in Advanced Placement or Dual Credit classes.
- ☐ Evaluate your student's extracurriculars.



TALK MONEY:

- ☐ Make summer plans. Now may be a good time to look into getting a part-time job or internship.
- ☐ Continue the discussion of saving for college.



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A COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS OF JUNIORS



GET ORGANIZED:

- ☐ Create a calendar and folder (paper and electronic to be safe) to organize your college search process.
- ☐ Discuss how to prepare for the SAT with online tools and resources.
- ☐ Help your child prepare to take the AP tests if they are enrolled in AP courses.



EXPLORE INTERESTS:

- ☐ Take the PSAT and review the results together.
- ☐ Take the ACT/SAT and review results.
- ☐ Take college visits.



TALK MONEY:

- ☐ Research scholarships and apply to ones that fit the student's profile or interests.



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A COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS OF SENIORS



GET ORGANIZED:

- ☐ Make a pros and cons list. Decide which schools have the most value for your student.
- ☐ Help your child determine if early decision is right for them.
- ☐ Provide comfort when your student receives admission responses and help them navigate the process.



EXPLORE INTERESTS:

- ☐ Begin applications by entering test scores, GPA, and writing a stellar admissions essay.
- ☐ Consider retaking the ACT or SAT.
- ☐ Use College Raptor to determine which colleges are the right fit and their net price cost.



TALK MONEY:

- ☐ File FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1st.
- ☐ Apply to scholarships and discuss loans.
- ☐ Review financial aid and acceptance offers.

