

**TIMELINE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS OF STUDENTS PLANNING
POST HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION**

Grade 8

May – June

Review and finalize course selections for Grade 9. Carefully look at the Course Guide Booklet and read the recommendations based on your future area of concentration.

Grade 9

September – January

Meet with the counselors for an orientation of the high school rules and policies. Become familiar with the grading policy and the requirements for graduation. Establish good study habits so that you may earn the best grades possible. This is a good time to begin career exploration. Your counselor can assist you with this by using the [Choices CT Program](#).

February – May

Continue with good study habits and career exploration. Talk with your counselor about your course selections for grade 10.

May - June

Review and finalize course selections for grade 10.

Grade 10

September – January

Reestablish good study habits for the year. You may want to take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which is given in October. The PSAT is a good practice test for the SAT. This is the time to become involved in school and community activities. Emphasis should be upon a deep commitment to a few activities rather than a superficial involvement in many. Continue to explore careers making use of the [Choices CT Careerware](#) and reference books available in the Counseling Office and Media Center.

February – May

Continue with good study habits and earn the best grades possible. Plan your course selection for grade 11 with your career goals in mind. Discuss your plan with your parents, teachers, and counselor.

June

Review and finalize your course selections for grade 11. Make sure you are scheduled for courses that will best prepare you for college or other vocational training. If you do not have a social security number, contact the local Social Security Administration office for an application. You will need a social security number to apply for jobs, college, and financial aid.

Grade 11

September – January

Register and take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). It is the junior year test, which qualifies you for National Merit Scholarships. Become involved in school and community activities. Try to make a note-worthy contribution in one or more areas.

Watch for the [Counselor Comments](#), which is published monthly, with pertinent information about jobs, college meetings, scholarships, and test dates. Begin meeting with visiting college representatives in the [Counselor Office](#).

Investigate features of colleges that seem to suit your interests, needs, and abilities, such as size, type of school, location, fields of study offered, academic quality, cost, environment, and special opportunities. Consult with a range of sources about colleges such as your counselor, teachers, parents, recent graduates, current students, and college publications. Continue good study habits to earn the best grade possible, as your junior year grades will be the last full year represented on the transcript mailed to colleges.

February – May

Plan your senior year course of study. Consult with your counselor to be sure you have enough credits, the proper distribution of core courses, and the subjects which will best prepare you for college or other vocational training. Register for a spring administration of the [Scholastic Aptitude Test \(SAT I\)](#) or take the [American College Test \(ACT\)](#) in April or June. Discuss with your counselor about taking Subject Tests (SAT II) and Advanced Placement (AP) Tests. You should attend the National College Fair which is held in February in Pittsburgh. Start writing to colleges and ask for information on their academic programs, admission criteria, and financial aid. Make use of the Choices CT Program as well as other resources available to you. Meet with your counselor to review information and college plans. Give some thought to campus visits and interviews for the summer.

Write to colleges for admission and financial aid information. If you plan to apply to colleges a distance from home, make campus visits a part of any summer trips you plan to take. If you can, work during the summer, as most colleges expect students to help pay costs. Read as much and as widely as you can. It is very important to keep up your reading skills. Review and finalize your course selection for grade 12. Make sure you are scheduled for courses that will prepare you for college and for your intended major.

Grade 12

September – January

Register for a fall [SAT](#) or [ACT](#). If your college wants SAT II Tests, make sure you are registered. Meet with your counselor to complete plans for college application processing. Attend college meetings and stay informed about scholarships and other pertinent information by reading the [Counselor Comments](#). Have your college application submitted to your college by December and in some cases earlier.

February – May

Have your parents file the [FASFA](#) Form for financial aid. This form should be filed by March. Have your parents attend the Financial Aid program at the high school. If you are taking AP courses, you should register for the May AP tests. If you do well on these tests, you can earn college credit. Colleges will be replying to your applications. Make your decision and reply to the colleges with your answer. Be sure to meet the deadline for sending a deposit to hold your place. See your counselor for assistance, as needed, during this time. Lastly, be sure to maintain your grades, and be the best student that you can be.