

College Timeline for High School Students

FRESHMEN:

Start strong!

- **GPA counts from day one** – Semester grades are listed on transcripts
- **Attendance matters** – Absent too much? Lose credit in the class!
- **Build relationships** – with teachers, counselors, administrators
(they are the ones that will write the letters of recommendation for college applications!)
- **Get involved** – Join a new club, try out for a sports team, volunteer your time
Colleges want to accept well-rounded students who are good IN school and OUTSIDE of a classroom, too.
- **XELLO** – Complete the Matchmaker activity (save your results!); *this information is useful for matching your interests/strengths and planning for high school classes.*
- **PSAT 8/9** – Standardized test to determine your current score range to prepare for the SAT
Taking the PSAT tests are good practice for the official SAT test taken during Junior year!

SOPHOMORES:

Keep building!

- **GPA still counts** – Credits start to add up (and at the end of this year, high school is ½ over!)
- **Attendance still matters** – Absent too much? Lose credit in the class!
- **Class selection** – Consider taking an AP or Honors course, if you have not already done so; challenge yourself to develop the skills to be successful in a college-level class!
- **PSAT 10** – Standardized test to determine your current score range to prepare for the SAT
Taking the PSAT tests are good practice for the official SAT test taken during Junior year!
Khan Academy offers help for specific subjects – useful for high school classes and standardized test prep! Khanacademy.org

JUNIORS:

Stay strong!

- **GPA is important** – When you apply to college during fall of your Senior year, your GPA and class ranking through the end of your Junior year is displayed on your transcript.
- **Class selection** – Consider taking an AP or Honors course, if you have not already done so; challenge yourself to develop the skills to be successful in a college-level class!
- **Take the SAT** – Prepare for the test! *Khan Academy offers help for specific subjects – useful for high school classes and standardized test prep! khanacademy.org*
- **Review College Admission Requirements** – Does your GPA and SAT score meet the college's minimum standards? Yes? *Great!!* No? *Look into back-up college options that match your GPA and/or Re-Take the SAT!*
- **Campus Visits** – Schedule a tour with a college guide; compare a few of your top choices
(price, location, size, campus life, dorms/apartments, parking, programs offered, job placement services, etc.)

SENIORS:

Finish strong!

- **Colleges will review your Senior year SCHEDULE and GRADES**
- **Review your own transcript:**
 - Create an account at parchment.com (*official transcript online request system*) **use a personal email address for your log-in (parchment.com will be used after you leave Howell schools/HHS email)*
 - Confirm all of your current classes are listed; Missing credits? Add them to your schedule! Credit recovery needed? Complete it! Attendance Appeal/make-up time needed? See your counselor!
- **Meet with College Admission reps at HHS** – Check the Events/Counseling calendar
- **Attend College Night in the Fall at HHS** – College reps are available to answer your questions in-person
- **Narrow down your college options** – Based on your GPA/SAT score, majors offered, location, price, etc.
- **XELLO** – Use your profile information to research more colleges and Financial Aid opportunities
- **Complete college applications** (Many colleges offer FREE applications during the month of October!)
 - **Watch deadlines!! Know the difference:** *Early Decision vs. Early Action vs. Regular Decision*
 - *If asking a teacher/counselor for a letter of recommendation, please give at least 2 weeks notice!*
- **Paying for college:** Request a FSA ID fsaid.ed.gov and Complete the FAFSA fafsa.gov
- **Search for scholarships:** on the college's website, on the HHS Counseling website, examples of web searches: fastweb.com, college-dollars.com, salliemae.com, bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search, myscholly.com
- **Decide on a college** – National deadline is May 1st. Tuition/dorm deposits deadlines; Register for Orientation