



BEGINNING THE COLLEGE JOURNEY

COLLEGE JOURNEY YOUR SEASONAL GUIDE



Winter

JANUARY

FEBRUARY



Getting Started: How Parents/Guardians Can Help Talk to Your Scholar

Who are
they and
what
makes
them
tick?

Interests

Strengths

Career Goals

Aspirations

Challenges

Fears/Concerns

Getting Started: How Parents/Guardians Can Help Build a College List

Tools to start building a college list

- www.niche.com
- <https://www.usnews.com/education>
- <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-search>
- www.bigfuture.collegeboard.com
- www.collegedata.com
- www.collegegreenlight.com

Getting Started: How Parents/Guardians Can Help Explore College Options

Factors to Consider

- Majors, rankings
- Admission requirements
 - GPA, class rank, SAT/ACT score
- Distance from home/location
- Student body enrollment (small, midsize, large)
- Cost of attendance
- Academic support
- Student life
- Residence halls
- Scholarships and other financial aid
- Public v. private
- Liberal arts v. traditional
- Single gender v. coed
- Undergraduate research
- Career assistance

Getting Started: How Parents/Guardians Can Help Tour College Campuses

School Breaks are Great Times to Tour Colleges

- 17 February
- 9-13 March (Spring Break)
- North Hills – Day Trip to Austin



COLLEGE TRIP-AUSTIN, TX | THURSDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2020 | MORE DETAILS SOON

Spring

MARCH

APRIL

MAY



Keep Going: How Parents/Guardians Can Help

Register for Testing: SAT v. ACT



We highly recommend taking BOTH tests to determine the test that your scholar is most comfortable taking.



Increased comfort level =
higher score earning potential.



Once a student has established their preferred assessment:

Take the test no more than 3 times

Studies show that students normally reach their highest score between attempts 1-3 IF they have had test preparation before and/or throughout the 3 attempts.

Keep Going: How Parents/Guardians Can Help

Encourage Self-Assessment



Take College Entrance Exams

ACT Test - on campus

Tuesday, 24 March

Test Prep Resources

www.KahnAcademy.org

www.PrincetonReview.com

www.kdcollegeprep.com

Others



Discover Your Interests

Interest Inventories

<http://www.careeroutlook.us/assessment/short.shtml>

<https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>

<http://career-tests-guide.com/free-career-interest-test.html>



Assess Your Strengths

Naviance Strengths Explorer®

Keep Going: How Parents/Guardians Can Help Encourage Self-Assessment



Explore Majors

Occupational Outlook (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Try Career Finder

<https://roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder>

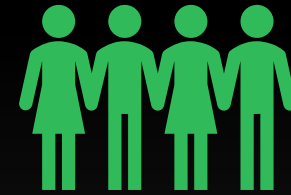
Talk to teachers

Identify favorite subjects

Consider career goals

Know how many years you are willing to attend college

Research salaries: www.payscale.com



Demonstrate Leadership

School clubs

Public service

Community organizations

Create a new program or group

Keep Going: How Parents/Guardians Can Help Understand Cost/Revise the College List

Estimate Costs

- Tuition and Cost of Attendance Calculators (university websites, financial aid pages)
- FAFSA4Caster- Estimate Your Aid: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/estimate>

Apply for Scholarships

- www.scholarships.com
- www.fastweb.com
- <https://scholarshipowl.com/>
- <https://myscholly.com/>
- <https://scholarships360.org/>
- Religious and community organizations
- Employers

Visit More Colleges!

Junior Scholar Meetings



Scholar-to-College Counselor assignments will be posted in mid-March



Scholar meetings will begin in mid-March by appointment



Meeting Topics:

College List

Personal Statements

Resume

Interests, etc.



Summer appointments are also available

Theories of Knowledge (TOK)/ College Prep 101 Series

(February-April)

** 1x/month **

College Awareness & Planning

- College terminology
- College research
- Prospective college lists

Self-Awareness

- StrengthsExplorer® (Naviance)
- Academic program interest

Putting it All Together

- Letters of recommendation
- College admission requirements
- Application guidelines/requirements

Summer

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST



Almost There: How Parents/Guardians Can Help

Create and Prepare



Create/Update

Résumé



Apply

Scholarships



Study & Test/Retest

SAT/ACT tests



Organize/Create

College Application Materials

- Essays
- Application fees
- Letters of recommendation
- Work samples
- Application opening dates and deadlines

Almost There: How Parents/Guardians Can Help Foster a College Going Culture



Visit Colleges

Family vacations
College tours
Fly-in programs
Summer immersion programs
Academic interest programs
Sports camps



Take Dual Credit Course(s) if applicable

Government and Economics only



Work a Summer Job or Internship



Subscribe to College Mailing Lists

Fall Preview

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER



Road to College & Career: College Counselors & Families Together



College Counselor meetings by appointment



Uplift College Fair



College Reps @ North Hills



Submit College Applications before winter break



Financial Aid Applications

FAFSA, TASFA, CSS Profile
Tax Returns: 2018 and 2019

Planning Ahead: How Parents/Guardians Can Help Save the Dates

February

- 13th – College Trip – Austin, TX
- TBD – Career Exploration Field Trips

March

- 3rd – 4th – Texas Tech University overnight (business, engineering, health science)
- 24th – ACT Test @ North Hills

April

- 3rd - 4th - JUMP
- 19th – NACAC College Fair (on your own)

*Thank
You*