

Freshman through Junior Year College Prep

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Freshman Year

- Parents, what motivates you to do your job every day?
- Plan your 4-year academic curriculum with your counselor & parent
- Commit to academic excellence – especially in areas of interest
- Get to know your teachers (Understand how to study – people care about people they know.) Get to know your counselors!!
- Get involved at Coronado High School
- Get involved in extracurricular activities that you may be interested in. Try 3-5 activities and you may like that you can stick with for four years.
- Find something fun to volunteer at during the summer that aligns with your interest
- Read something outside your academic requirements: books, magazines, newspapers
- In the summer review math and continue reading at a high level to help with the PSAT your sophomore and junior year
- Keep a file of your achievements: activities, accomplishments, volunteer work, club sports, COSA, your special niche
- Visit colleges here in San Diego and while on vacation – Seriously, start now!
- Sit down with someone and go through a plan of action and discover career ideas that may interest you, and colleges too!
- MyPlan.com Great way to do a self-assessment of what field you may excel in. Thank you Julie Russell!

-Athletes-start contacting coaches, etc OR YOUR Niche!?!

Sophomore Year

-Academics are the strongest indicators of your ability to work hard

-Concentrate on keeping your grades up – again your teachers can help!

-Review courses to make sure they match up with the colleges you want to attend. The more difficult it is to get into a school the more rigorous the courses may need to be. (Depends on your background and niche.)

-You will be taking the PSAT again in October at CHS. If possible, buy the answer key and keep the booklet from your exam to review afterwards.

-Review your PSAT results and practice on your weaknesses. The reading in the summer will help you so much with the ACT and SAT.

-Continue killing it in your extracurricular activities, and keeping records of your community service hours, what you learned from it, and if possible, please try to make it meaningful to you.

-Go to the spring college fair, usually at the Convention Center.

-Consider SAT Subject Tests for AP classes

-Discuss college with your parents and any financial considerations

-If 16, consider a job, or an internship in an area you are interested in.

-In the summer, keep reading, practicing math, and go on college tours

-Keep contacting coaches

Junior Year

-THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ACADEMIC YEAR. This is the last full year of grades on your transcript you will send to your colleges.

-When CHS has college representatives on campus, go meet them!

- Visit schools over your breaks or when you have an unusual day off
- Look for leadership opportunities in your activities you have been involved in – ASB – Class Leadership positions – Sports - Clubs
- Understand the difference between private/public schools urban/rural
- Test Prep – You may prefer either the ACT or SAT take both
- Take the ACT and or SAT as many times as you need – Super Score
- Summer Plans – make them in March – how can you maximize your summer to widen your opportunities: Work, community service, Intern
- Ask teachers if they will write you a letter of recommendation
- Academy kids apply for Summer Seminar

Senior Year

-Summer: Develop a “College Application Plan” like a marketing plan!

With dates and deadlines – stick with it! You will be so happy you did.

-Summer: Complete your Personal Statement (essay) for the Common Application.

Brainstorm with your parents, me, Mrs. Lemei, etc. This can be a fun experience!! Make sure the person who helps you with your essays KNOWS YOU, your background, and what you are about. It’s important.

-ROTC-Academy kids start applications in the summer

-ACT and SAT Prep – Really matters for merit money and acceptance

-Understand Early Decision – Early Action – Regular Decision

-Anything I can do to help, I am here! I LOVE this process! Thank you.