

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

- Review your high school *Student Handbook* and educational *Program Planning Guide*.
- If you need to make up credits or required courses, see your Vice-Principal or Student Services Coordinator immediately.
- Stop by the College & Career Center to see the schedule of college representatives who will be visiting your high school in the fall. College representatives visit during September, October, and November. Use the career and/or college search programs at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and [www.GetInsights.com](http://www.GetInsights.com) (your College Advisor has the coupon code number).
- Plan for college expenses at [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org). Utilize the FAFSA 4-Caster at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to determine the amount of money your family will be expected to contribute towards yearly college costs (EFC).

OCTOBER

- Pay the **PSAT** (Pre-SAT) test fee. The **PSAT** is given on the third Saturday in October, once a year. It is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program, as well as being a practice test for the **SAT**.
- Meet with college and vocational school representatives and listen to career speakers.

NOVEMBER

- If you have not passed the California High School Exit Exams in mathematics and/or language arts, retake the test(s).

DECEMBER

- Review **PSAT** results; use the score report to prepare for the SAT Reasoning Test. Go over any question you answered incorrectly using the test book, or by accessing your on-line score report via College QuickStart at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). My College QuickStart will also connect you to *MyRoad*, an outstanding college, major, and career search web site.

JANUARY

- Encourage your parent(s) to attend the **Financial Aid Information Night** sponsored by district College & Career Centers.
- Record your fall semester grades on your four-year academic plan and update your plan. Pay special attention to courses that are required for high school graduation and/or college admission.
- Think ahead to summer. Many summer enrichment and study abroad programs are available, some of which offer financial aid or scholarships. See the *Summer Opportunities Bulletin*, which is published monthly, February through May, and is posted at the Northgate High School Parent Club web site: [www.northgatehs-pfc.com](http://www.northgatehs-pfc.com). Click on *College & Career Center*.

FEBRUARY

- Begin the course selection process for next year. Review your goals, check with your teachers about continuing on to more advanced courses, and explore electives that are offered, including *Regional Occupation Program* classes.

- Register for the **SAT Reasoning Test** (SAT) and/or the **American College Test** (ACT) if you are planning to attend a four-year college. Juniors planning to apply to the University of California or highly competitive private colleges should also register for **SAT Subject Tests**, usually taken in June. Register on-line at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) (ACT) and [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) (SAT and Subject Tests). See the *In-Focus* publication titled “Test Information” for more details.
- Register for **Advanced Placement** examinations, which are given in May. Late registration the last week of February will require an additional, \$40 late fee per test. Registration forms are available in early February from College & Career Centers and high school Treasurer’s Offices. You do not need to be enrolled in an AP class to take an AP test.
- Meet with your Career/College Advisor to discuss possible programs of study and college or job training options.

### MARCH

- Attend local youth job fairs if you are seeking summer employment. Check job postings on-line, in the Work Experience Education Office, high school job board, or the College & Career Center.
- If you have not passed the California High School Exit Exams in mathematics and/or language arts, retake the test(s).
- Attend the district **College Night** sponsored by the district College & Career Centers.

### APRIL / MAY

- Review your third quarter grades and the courses you selected for next year. Check with your teachers or Career/College Advisor to determine if you need to make any changes to your course selections.
- Inquire about summer school. Are there graduation requirements that you need to make up, or semester grades that need to be improved for college admission? Complete and submit any applications required for summer school.
- Attend the **East Bay College Fair** with your parents. Attend workshops on a variety of college-related topics and ask questions of admissions personnel representing over 150 two- and four-year colleges.
- Visit community college web sites or bookstores for summer and/or fall class schedules. Obtain *Concurrent Enrollment Forms* from the College & Career Center or your Vice-Principal if you plan to take a community college course in the summer **or** in the fall. You must obtain permission to register for fall classes from your high school administration by mid-June.

### JUNE

- Record your second semester grades, which will be mailed to you in late June, on your four-year academic plan. Make sure you will meet all district graduation requirements. Update your “high school planner” at [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu) too.
- Visit colleges and vocational schools. Take a campus tour and attend the information session presented by the Admissions Office, scheduled once or twice a day at many colleges in the spring, summer and early fall.
- Obtain an application from any college you plan to apply to through an Early Decision or Early Action program. The Common Application, which is accepted by 350+ colleges, is available at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Start your scholarship search at [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) or [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com).
- Update your activities resume and keep a record of community service hours. Community service is *very* important for students who plan to apply for scholarships as Seniors. If you can’t find paid summer employment, volunteer!