

## **Juniors: College Planning Goals**

### **April:**

- Develop a preliminary list of colleges that interest you. Visit college (undergraduate admission) website and request further information, sign-up on line. Research Colleges in Family Connection.
- Make a file for each college in which you are interested and gather information about academics, financial aid, and campus life. This file will be reviewed in your first college meeting senior year.
- Begin planning college visits. Spring break is a good time to visit a college campus. Try to visit colleges near you and include a large, medium size, and small campus
- Talk to your parents about colleges you are interested in attending.

### **May:**

- Take a look at some college applications and consider all of the different pieces of information you will need to compile.
- Make a list of teachers and/ or counselors whom you might ask to write letters of recommendation for your college applications. Make sure you pick teachers who have taught you either junior or senior year.

### **June-August:**

- Continue researching colleges/universities.
- Begin thinking about your applications. Generally, colleges will have their applications online by the beginning of August. Work on the college application essay before you return to school!

### **To do list:**

- Research colleges and add them to your prospective colleges list under “colleges I’m thinking about” in Family Connection Naviance. Naviance “Mark complete” under the “Tasks Assigned to me” tab.
- Start working on the common application essay prompt. Essay prompts are printed on the next page. College Counseling will be hosting mandatory essay workshops the first week of school, students must bring a draft to the workshop.
- Complete a resume. A college resume is required for college applications/scholarships.

## **2018-2019 Common Application Essay Prompts**

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.