

### Sophomore Year

- Learn what resources are available to help you plan for college by meeting with your school's college or school counselor. Ask about catalogs, guidebooks, college search programs, and college websites.
- Begin your college search and visits.
  - Create a list of colleges and universities you are interested in and discuss it with your parents and school counselor.
  - Find out about the different types of schools. Decide which characteristics are most important to you, such as the size of the school, distance from home, cost, and extracurricular activities.
- Continue extracurricular activities, as admission officers look at students' extracurricular activities when considering them for admission.
- Continue participation in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops and camps with specialty focuses, such as music, arts, and science.
- Update your file of important documents and notes.
- Prepare for standardized testing.
  - Ask your counselor about taking the PreACT or PSAT/NMSQT test in the fall or the PSAT 10 in the spring (with or without writing). These are valuable tests to help you prepare for the actual ACT and SAT, two college entrance exams, which you can take during your junior year.
  - Review PreACT, the PSAT 10, or PSAT/NMSQT test results with your parents and school counselor.
  - Many students take SAT Subject Tests for college admission as early as sophomore year. These tests help you show colleges your proficiency in different subject areas.
- Sign up for junior year courses keeping in mind that you will want to challenge yourself with tougher courses. It will pay off in the long run, not only by making you smarter, but also by impressing colleges and helping you earn scholarships.
- Talk to your counselor about registering for AP courses next year. AP, or Advanced Placement, courses grant college credit for achievement in exams during high school covering different college-level subjects.