

Month-to-Month Planner for High School Juniors 2009-10

September

- Find out the dates for the **PSAT** (October 14th) which is the **National Merit Scholars Qualifying Test (NMSQT)**. Sign up in the counseling center, \$13.00. Practice tests???
- Be sure you are enrolled in classes required by the **RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM** or the **DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM** to help make sure you're ready for college-level courses and to improve your chances for a **TEXAS Grant**.
- Attend college night on September 23rd at Frisco High School from 6-8:30 PM
- Get a Social Security Number (SSN) if you don't already have one. You will need it to apply for college and financial aid. Apply for an SSN by visiting or calling your local Social Security Administration Office.

October

Start looking through college catalogs and guidebooks, and/or visit college web sites. A good source of information is our **List of Higher Education Institutions in Texas**. It links to all colleges and universities in Texas. If you're interested in colleges or universities in other states, visit our **Online Library** for links to specific college and college-related web sites. Family Connection has info also.

- Put together a list of 10 colleges you would like to attend. (Family Connection)
- Plan to apply to three or more colleges or universities.
- Discuss with your parents where you want to go to college.
- Take the **PSAT/NMSQT** test and there is a \$13.00 fee
- If not taking the PSAT, then 11th graders will take the ASVAB

November

- Look at college guide books in your counselor's office, the library, or on web sites.
- Request catalogs, admissions requirements, and financial aid information from colleges.
- Start planning to take the **SAT I and/or SAT II** exams, if necessary. You may also need to take the **ACT** test. Be aware of registration deadlines. Visit web sites.

December/January

- Learn about financial aid and scholarships. On this site, go to **information on financial aid programs**.
- Talk to college students who attend the college or university in which you're interested.
- Plan to take the SAT this spring. These scores are needed for early admission and for fall application deadlines.

February/March

- Take the exit-level Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) this spring. See testing calendar for dates.
- Take college visits if necessary.
- Be sure you are enrolled for your senior year in classes required by the **RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM** or the **DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM** to help make sure you're ready for college-level courses and to improve your chances for a **TEXAS Grant**.

April

- Be aware of the Early Admission (Early Decision) plan offered by some colleges.
- If you are enrolled in Advanced Placement courses, pay for **Advanced Placement (AP)** tests.
- Take college visits if necessary.
- Have you taken ACT or SAT? If not, time is running out!

May

- AP Exams in early May
- Ask your English teacher for a summer reading list, and read those books.
- Take summer courses if your counselor or the college has suggested doing so.

June-August

- Schedule visits to each of the schools on your final list, if possible. Contact the admissions office to schedule a campus tour.
- Request college admission applications if you plan to attend a community college, a Texas state technical college or a private (independent) college or university. You can find applications for many Texas independent (private) colleges and universities online at www.texasmentor.org (Your Guide to Texas Private Colleges). **Review the applications to learn what information you need to gather before your busy senior year begins.**
- Some institutions require essays as part of your admission application. Start working on yours now, if needed.