

8th Grade Checklist

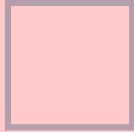
- During the year
- Summer before high school

Check off items as they are completed!

During the year



Counselor Assessment: Sit down with your counselor and ask them what classes are available for you to take that will best prepare you for high school



Start thinking about where you want to go to high school. Some private and magnet schools require an application process that may start a year in advance. Do your research to see where you want to go and what the process may be to get there.



Get the best possible grades!



Start preparing for high school level courses (Take Honors courses)



Read as many books and learn as many new vocabulary words as possible!



Stay active with your free time!



Get involved in the community and sign up for clubs in school. This is a great way to start getting prepared for clubs in high school. Use this as an opportunity to start your own group if something you're interested in doesn't yet exist at your school.

Summer before high school

- Read a book of your choosing. Here is a website with some amazing options: <https://plexuss.com/news/article/books-to-read-in-high-school-reading-list>
- Sign up to volunteer somewhere like a hospital, animal shelter, jamati activities, etc.
- Set up a schedule for yourself so you don't fall behind. The study habits you develop in 9th grade will be the basis for your success later on.
- Sign up for any and all advanced classes that are available.
- Sort through all extracurricular activities available, with any eye toward participating for four years in those that truly interest you. Colleges like to see long-term commitment.
- Start a list of your extracurricular involvements and add to it each year. Include jamati and non-jamati activities. Use this template as a resource to keep a record of your extracurricular involvement: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qkta0xKU2SA-6_ZS3Z8kzhMUPGJg1q87nt43bwJXWA/edit#gid=0
- Start thinking about what kind of career sounds the most interesting to you, more than one college major can get you into that career.
- Take this career quiz as a starting point to see what interests you: <https://www.123test.com/career-test/>
- Lastly, high school can be daunting, but it'll also be a time where you make amazing friends and memories and learn a ton before entering college. Make sure you set up a support system for yourself whether that's through friends, family, and counselor, tutor etc.

9th Grade Checklist

- Reminders before the school year
- August - October
- November - January
- February - April
- May - July

Check off items as they are completed!

Reminders before starting the school year

- Avoid the temptation to leave academics behind and believe that "I can worry about grades later. I'm only in 9th grade." It is difficult to improve your GPA later on
- 9th grade is the time to develop study habits learn different methods of how to retain information best. Everyone learns differently, so take the time to think about what works best for you
- Remain conscious of building relationships with your teachers. This will be helpful when you start asking for letters of recommendations for scholarships and college applications. These teacher/student mentor relationships often start early in high school
- Consider taking algebra I in order to take precalculus or calculus as a senior in high school.
- Consider taking a foreign language course
- Get organized for when the homework starts to pile up! Use a template to track your assignments and manage your time.

August - October

- Counselor Assessment:** Meet your counselor and start going through this checklist to ensure you're setting yourself up for success these next 4 years
- Elective courses are your non-core courses that fulfill graduation credits and that you have a particular interest in. Make sure to sign up for courses that will fulfill these requirements to graduate.

August - October

Schools differ on their elective course options so reach out to your school or school counselor for details. Your school may also have information on their website

Start signing up for extracurriculars and activities and log them throughout your high school experience

Try to take the PSAT in 9th grade to familiarize yourself with the test using these steps:

First, you must determine whether your school administers the PSAT because not all schools administer the PSAT. The easiest way to check this is through the College Board's school search tool. If your school does not show up in the list, look for other schools within your city or zip code that offer the test

Look for practice questions and/or practice tests you can take to see the format and get a feel for the test

Find out your registration deadline and test date . Some schools will offer a weekday date some will offer an alternate date on a Saturday

Sign up and pay for the test

Your next step is to register for the PSAT. Here's the kicker, though: PSAT sign up methods vary by school. So while some schools may require you to register and pay for the test in person, others may require you to register online through a website. (You will never register for the PSAT through the CollegeBoard, however.)

August - October cont'd

The cost may be different depending on grade and where it's being offered, so keep that in mind

If you also cannot find a school to take it officially you can use the practice tests on CollegeBoard and have someone time them.

Choosing classes is always tough, check out these articles about how to choose classes in high school:

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/choosing-high-school-classes>, <https://admissions.yale.edu/advice-selecting-high-school-courses>

November - January

Start looking for and applying to scholarships for college. Check out these links: <https://www.goingmerry.com/>

Make a copy of the Scholarship Tracker to track the scholarships you've applied to and ones you received. You should always be looking for scholarships to apply to throughout your high school career.

Some scholarships may ask you to get a letter of recommendation from someone, use this as a way to start gathering potential resources to use for college application time . It's always helpful to hand recommenders a copy of your activity list or resume. Use this as a guide: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1siCPB26urPVVXvff68PjsCQSLKgoJ52dSfbSg9vY3Q4/edit>

Start to think about what you may want to major in college and what careers interest you. Take this quiz from Loyola University to help you decide on a major: <https://www.luc.edu/undergrad/academiclife/whatsmymajorquiz/>

February - April



Try out new clubs, sports, and different activities to see what fits best with your interests. Start making a mental list of which activities you do not like so you can better understand all the activities you enjoy. Try to keep an open mind and give all the activities that interest you a fair chance.



Check out this great article on time management: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kevinkruse/2015/11/09/time-management-students/?sh=16512fa06a4c>. And check out this site from USC for some tools to help with time management: <https://kortschakcenter.usc.edu/tools-resources/>



End of year Counselor check-in: Start planning for which classes make sense and only take Honors and AP classes if you're doing well in the regular classes which are prerequisites to these Honors and AP classes.

May - July (Summer Vacation)



Never let your summers simply be a time to relax. Use your summers as a time to grow professionally and personally where you can have fun and gain leadership skills by participating in camps and different activities as well.



Find a one-month or two-week college program at one of the top schools in your area so that you can further pursue a subject of interest



Apply for Jamati programs such as Camp Mosaic, Camp Discovery Al-Ummah, Global Encounters etc.



Take a summer course at a high school or at the local university.

May - July (Summer Vacation) Cont'd

Take a summer course at a high school or at the local university.

Sign up for skill camps: debate camp, sports camp, science camp etc. by looking online for camps in your area or that are available to you

In your spare time over the summer, read, read, read :) Check out Barnes and Noble's top 100 books to read:
https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/books/_/N-1fZ29Z8q8

10th Grade Checklist

- Before the year
- August - October
- November - January
- February - April
- May
- June - July

Check off items as they are completed!

Reminders before starting the school year

Are you enjoying your sports or other extracurricular activities? Do you have any new interests you want to pursue? Now is the time to change around a little but still have a solid three-year commitment by senior year.

At the same time, deepen your involvement in the activities that you enjoy and excel at. Seek leadership opportunities, and branch out to regional-level competition or involvement.

Continue reading different kinds of materials. This is a great time to boost your vocabulary and reading comprehension before the barrage of junior-year testing.

This is also a chance to do an extra research project of interest, take a few college classes, or other academic summer program.

Take summer courses at your high school or in the local university

Participate in Jamati programs and try to take on leadership roles

Add these to your activity tracker & Resume

Continue applying for scholarship throughout the year

August - October

Counselor check-in: Sit down with your counselor again and assess your checklist to see what you need from them for the year

Start thinking about subjects that you are doing well in

Talk to you counselor about how to excel in those subjects during 10th grade

Apply for College Fairs.

Standardized Tests!

November - January

Take the PSAT - The scores will not count for National Merit Scholar consideration this year, but it is good practice for taking the PSAT in your junior year (when the scores will count). In California, all 10th graders can take the PSAT for free if your school hosts it.

Keep up with your studies and activities

Apply to more scholarships - There are so many out there. Don't miss out :)

February - April

Apply for a College Expedition program in another region

By spring break, evaluate your strong subjects and begin to study for one or two SAT Subject Test tests (if applying to American Universities).

If possible, try to take at least one SAT Subject Test by the end of sophomore year

May

Ask older students about the courses they took junior year. See if they liked the class, the teacher, grading scale, amount of homework. Try to get a sense of what you're going to be signing up for before you do.

Some schools may have AP fairs where they show all the AP courses offered and students can find out information about them. Either way, do your research about the courses offered by talking to students and teachers.

Counselor check-in

Sign up for the most challenging classes you can handle for 11th grade. Colleges check to see if you signed up for AP and IB classes and prefer you to challenge yourself. Just make sure you can handle the load and keep your GPA up.

AP Exams!

June - July (Summer Vacation)

Begin to prepare for the SATs by enrolling in prep courses and looking at practice books.

If you didn't do one last summer, apply for Jamati programs such as Camp Mosaic, Al-Ummah, Global Encounters, etc.

Playing a role in a leadership program as an activity this summer shows initiative and independence.

Fit in a few college visits over the summer

Get a job/internship

11th Grade Checklist

- Before the School
Year
- August-October
- November - January
- February - April
- May
- June - July

Check off items as they are completed!

Reminders before starting the school year

Continue applying for scholarship throughout the year, and use the tracker provided earlier to track your progress

Look into taking on a leadership role in one of your activities/clubs - colleges love to see this.

As you research education and career options, share your discoveries with your family. You'll be working together a lot over the next couple of years as you leave high school and enter college or pursue another path

If your school offers this, meet with your counselor or teachers to get any insight into the following:

Availability of and enrollment in AP or IB classes (It's possible to take classes at a local community college if classes you are interested in are not available at your school. Ask your counselor about this).

The possibility of concurrent enrollment: taking college-level courses before you graduate from high school

Schedules for the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ACT and AP exams (CollegeBoard has all SAT/SAT Subject test dates).

This will be your most difficult year of high school. Make sure to take time for yourself and take breaks. This will be super important as things start to pile up.

August - October

Counselor check-in.

Make sure you are on track to complete the credits and courses needed for graduation

Apply for College Fairs if you have not yet attended one.

Start to create your list of colleges you'd like to apply to. You can use a template to organize your pros and cons

Begin a list of things you want to get out college such as the environment, class size, degree, clubs, sports, work opportunities, etc.

Use your classification list to determine the schools that have all the things you like. Be broad and look at all of the Top 100 schools. Many top schools may be off of your radar, and are worth investigating.

Categorize them by public vs. private, safety schools vs. reach schools, in-state vs. out-of-state

Make sure you have a variety and apply to multiple

Take note of the requirements of each college. Many colleges require supplemental essays in their application.

Sign up to take the SAT, ACT and any additional SAT subject tests (if applying to American Universities)

November - January



Take the **SAT, ACT** and **SAT Subject Tests** (if applying to **American Universities**)



Start scheduling time to visit schools and admissions counselors if you haven't done a **College Expedition** or visited schools before.



Create a list of questions to ask that are important to you about what you want to know about the school. Researching online before you book a trip is a great way to narrow down schools.

February - April



If you didn't do as well as you would have liked the first time, sign up retake the **SAT/ACT** or **SAT subject tests** and start studying again (if applying to **American Universities**)



Apply for **College Fairs** if you have not yet attended one.



Study for **AP and IB Tests** - getting top scores on these exams can help you test out of some college courses depending on the school you end up going to

May



AP/IB exam time!

June - July (Summer Vacation)

Narrow down your college list and be sure you understand how to apply (Common App, UC App or others) for all the colleges you are considering.

Mark your calendars! As soon as the applications open up, open all of them and read over all the supplemental questions and send your teachers the letter of recommendations links. Don't wait until the last minute to be surprised on the essays.

Make a schedule of when each application is due. Stay organized so you don't miss opportunities! Use a template to track your colleges and all the application components

Do as much research as you can on the colleges that interest you

Read about them in college guidebooks, spend time on college's websites, and talk to college-age friends who might be around during the summer

Check the requirements for these schools so you can fulfill them

Look at the actual applications so you can familiarize yourself with what the college is asking for

Start writing those college application essays! It's always best to start early.

Think about applying early decision/early action to your first-choice college - it's okay to wait for regular decision, but if you know your top choice, go for it!

June - July (Summer Vacation)

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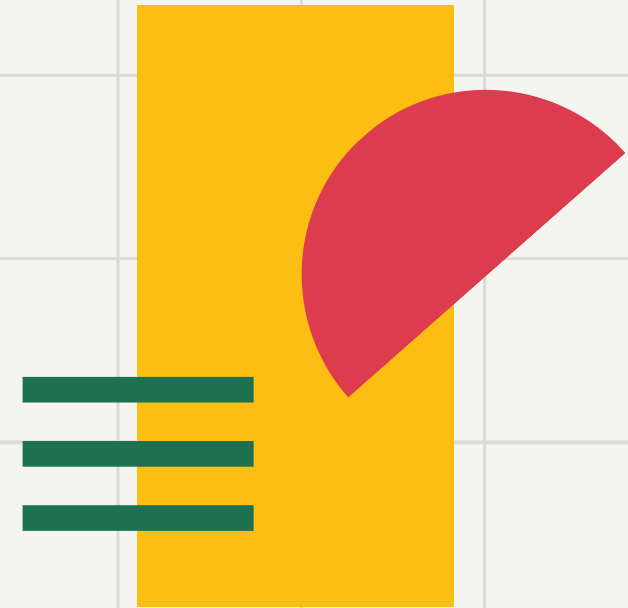
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12th Grade Checklist

- Before the School Year
- August-September
- October
- November - December
- January
- February - April
- May
- June - August

Check off items as they are completed!



Reminders before starting the school year

This first semester will be tough as you start applying to schools and balance your schoolwork and clubs/activities

Use your time management skills to make a schedule for the year

August - September

Counselor check-in: Go back through your High School counselor checklist to make sure you've set yourself up for success this year

Make sure you have a plan with your counselor for college applications

Check your transcripts to make sure you have all the credits you need to get into the colleges that interest you. Find out from the colleges whether or not they need official copies of your transcripts (these are sent directly from your school).

Register for the October/November SAT, SAT Subject, and ACT tests if you didn't take them already or if you want to get a better score (Applicable for American Universities)

Take another look at your list of colleges, and make sure they still satisfy your requirements. It's okay to change your mind. Make sure you meet the requirements. Make sure you meet the requirements



College Application Time! Make a schedule of when each application is due. Use this as a guide:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qWtAgwtA-_mxuKod59rSXOnAj1ZVRuwv3wGyDYmNGIs/edit#gid=0



Recommendation Letters: Identify which teacher you want to write you recommendation letters and ask them early so they have plenty of time to write them!



Reach out to your College Expedition Mentors or other older friends/siblings to help edit your college essays



Send your test scores to the colleges you are applying to

October



Take the SAT or ACT tests if you are not yet satisfied with your scores. Have the official scores sent by the testing agency to the colleges or universities that have made your final list of schools. Register for December or January SAT and SAT Subject tests, if necessary



Complete Application for Scholarship and Financial Aid in October to determine your eligibility to help you pay for college (National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC))

November - December



Check with the financial aid office and websites of schools you are applying to for specific information on scholarships and costs for tuition, fees, room and board, and any additional financial aid info they require.



Watch your inbox if you submitted an early decision application. Early decision replies usually arrive between December 1 and 31.



If you haven't already done so, make sure your official test scores/transcripts are being sent to the colleges to which you are applying



Schedule any remaining required interviews for schools



Summer is a great time to earn extra money and gain work experience. Ask your counselor about internships, and start researching the summer job market in your area.

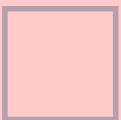
January



Check for other financial aid options (Student loans, Bursaries, Highschool scholarships, Sports Scholarships etc)



Determine how the colleges you are applying to want your transcripts delivered. Some may require your high school to send them, some may also want your spring semester grades.



Contact the admissions office of the colleges to which you have applied to make sure that your information has been received, and that they have everything they need from you

February - April



Starting receiving your acceptance letters and begin to determine which university you want to attend



Compare your acceptance letters, financial aid, scholarship offers as well as the majors and programs you got into

May



Take provincial exams for any subjects you studied in high school (Eg. AP or IB exams)



Keep checking your email! Schools tend to send out more emails this month to request additional information from you such as finances.



Decision time! You should decide on a college in May. Notify that school by mailing your commitment deposit check. Many schools require that your notification letter be postmarked by this date.

June - August (Summer Vacation)



Determine housing and start preparing to head to school!



Participate in any summer orientation programs such as New Student Welcome or Jump Start for first year students