**College…THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!**

College isn’t something that you can wait until the last minute to do. It takes a lot of planning outside of just your Junior and Senior Years…. start thinking now and planning ahead!

**Here’s your Four-Year Strategic Plan:**

**FRESHMAN YEAR**

**SOPHOMORE YEAR**

* **Concentrate on making GOOD GRADES;**

Freshman year grades WILL BE on your transcript

* **MEET WITH YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR to talk about the types of classes you would like to take and the track to graduation (this includes NY graduation requirements**
* **Utilize your Naviance account and play around on it (there are career aptitude tests and other things that can help guide you to possible careers/opportunities based on your interests**
* **GET INVOLVED: join clubs and organizations and keep track of them all**
* **Concentrate on making GOOD GRADES; make sure your grades are improving and that you are working hard**
* **MEET WITH YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR to register for some advanced classes; take it easy at first and then add on as you feel you are able**
* **Use your Naviance account to continue exploring your interests and to look up some colleges you might be interested in**
* **STAY INVOLVED: pursue leadership roles and keep track of all you’re doing**
* **TAKE THE PSAT: take it seriously, it’s free and shows colleges your potential!**
* **CHALLENGE YOURSELF: don’t take classes just because they’re easy**

**JUNIOR YEAR**

**SENIOR YEAR**

* **KEEP UP THE GOOD GRADES; Junior year is hard but don’t let it kill your GPA**
* **MEET WITH YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR to make sure you’re on the right path for graduation and to talk about college options**
* **Get the schedule for the SAT/ACT: see Mr. Bollar for help registering, fee waivers and study, study, study! (Methodize is a free prep tool for you to use!)**
* **TAKE THE SAT/ACT AT LEAST ONCE! The ACT will be offered to you (once) for free and the more you take it, the better your score will end up being!**
* **LOOK UP SCHOOLS ON NAVIANCE: look into admission requirements for schools you might like to go to! Attend college fairs, financial aid workshops, and visit some campuses!**
* **START YOUR RESUME: write down a list of all you’re involved in, awards you have received, and any other accomplishments to showcase when applying to college.**
* **STAY INVOLVED: do some community service, participate in clubs, and keep active!**

GET A MORE COMPLETE CHECKLIST FOR JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEAR IN GUIDANCE!

* **KEEP UP THE GOOD GRADES; Don’t let Senioritis get the best of you!**
* **MEET WITH YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR to make sure you’re on track for graduation and to talk about college options**
* **TAKE THE SAT OR ACT AGAIN! Retaking these tests will improve your scores and chances to get into school**
* **LOOK UP SCHOOLS ON NAVIANCE: at this point, you should be finalizing where you are applying, visiting campuses, and making sure you match entrance requirements!**
* **APPLY TO SCHOOL: utilize your Counselor, or Mr. Bollar, and events such as College Application Week to apply to school. Apply to at least 4 colleges, and apply to NCC as well!**
* **APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS: It’s all about the money. Make sure you do your FAFSA before March 1.**
* **ENROLL; pay your deposits, register for classes, and housing!**
* **GRADUATE AND HAVE FUN!**

