



## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade College Preparedness Timeline

Focus: Maintain a strong GPA, develop leadership skills through your extracurricular and community focused activities, create a list of colleges you have interested in, prepare for college entrance exams, and apply for scholarships early.

September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Junior year grades are among the most important on your high school transcript. Focusing on your schoolwork this year will be rewarding in the future!</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take the CLT (Classic Learning Test) and PSAT.</li> <li>• Take a SAT/ACT prep course, then schedule your SAT/ACT for the spring. You can always retake it in 12<sup>th</sup> grade if you want to raise your score!</li> </ul>
Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build relationships with your teachers this year. These relationships are invaluable to your high school experience. Also, you will be asking a couple of them for teacher recommendations, and it will be helpful to them the more they know about you!</li> <li>• Create a list of 5-10 colleges you are interested in learning more about. Even if you are convinced you want to go to a certain school, find at least 4 other options to use as alternates. Attend college rep visits at Valor to learn about a variety of schools.</li> </ul>
Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update your resume. List all your sports, internships, jobs, awards, plays, clubs, honors, groups, etc. It is ok to brag about yourself in this document!</li> <li>• Connect your PSAT results to Khan Academy to create a SAT study program. Tip: focus on the skills, not the score! Register for a spring SAT or ACT.</li> <li>• Get on the mailing lists of colleges on your list if you are not already. Go to their college nights. Some colleges keep track of every time you interact with the school at a rep visit or log in to the school's student section on their website. The more demonstrated interest you show may help once you submit your application next year.</li> <li>• Begin to brainstorm about how you might spend your summer months. Camps, internships, jobs, classes? The options are endless. If you intend to apply to a highly selective university, do something interesting over the summer.</li> </ul>
Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep working on your grades! Junior year is challenging, but it is important to show your persistence to colleges through the grades on your transcript.</li> <li>• VISIT your top 2-3 school choices if possible. This is important. Sometimes the culture on campus just does not suit you, but you will not know until you step on campus.</li> <li>• Many scholarships are available for Juniors! Senior year is even busier than Junior year, so take some time to apply for a few scholarships this spring/summer.</li> </ul>
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit colleges. You can even visit local colleges just to get an idea of the feel of several types of schools (large vs. small, public vs. private)</li> <li>• Continue to apply for scholarships.</li> <li>• You can begin to write your personal narrative and attend Valor's essay workshop. If you write a first draft over the summer, you can get feedback from your college counselor, parent, or English teacher in the fall.</li> <li>• Find out college application deadlines for your top schools and start filling out the Common Application demographic and activities sections.</li> </ul>