

Getting Ready for College: Timeline

Before the End of Grade 8:

- Discuss course options for Grade 9 with parents, teachers and ASM Administration.
- Enroll in Grade 9 courses appropriate to your level and interests.
- Begin career exploration.

Starting in Grade 9:

- Begin to develop an organized running list (with relevant dates) of school and other activities, experience and awards that may be relevant to the college application process. This list may include:

- 1) Athletics
- 2) Arts and Music
- 3) Service learning
- 4) Membership in school clubs
- 5) Work Experience (volunteer or paid)
- 6) Awards
- 7) Travel
- 8) Books Read

- Begin acquiring and documenting service learning hours required for graduation.
- Continue career exploration.
- Finalize Grade 9 service learning hours a week before final report card.
- Discuss course options for Grade 10 with parents, teachers and ASM Administration.
- Enroll in Grade 10 courses (including electives and/or independent APs) appropriate to your level and interests.
- Make a College Board account.
- Begin to prepare for the PSAT exam over the summer following Grade 9.
- Consider attending a summer program (sports, academic or other) or engaging in volunteer work or other work experience over the summer.

In Grade 10:

- Schedule at least 1-2 meetings with College Counselor.
- Continue to update the activities, experience and awards list started in Grade 9.
- Continue acquiring and documenting service learning hours required for graduation.
- Continue to prepare for and take the PSAT exam and AP exams.
- Continue career exploration.
- Begin to research universities and university programs.
- Create an ACT web account, if required to take the ACT.
- Take AP exams in May.
- Finalize Grade 10 service learning hours a week before final report card.
- Ask for letters of recommendation from leaving teachers, if relevant.

- Discuss course options for Grade 11 with parents, teachers and ASM Administration.
- Enroll in Grade 11 courses (including electives) appropriate to your level and interests.
- Attend a summer program (sports, academic or other) or engaging in volunteer work or other work experience over the summer.

In Grade 11:

- Schedule regular meetings with College Counselor.
- Continue to update the activities, experience and awards list started in Grade 9.
- Continue acquiring and documenting service learning hours required for graduation.
- Continue career exploration.
- Potential Art and Architecture majors should begin to build portfolio and learn CAD.
- Begin to prepare for the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ACT, TOEFL and/or IELTS exams necessary for college applications.
- Take SAT and/or ACT at once or twice during the second semester, if needed for college applications.
- Take AP exams in May.
- Take any necessary SAT Subject Tests in May and June.
- Continue to research universities and university programs. Tour college campuses of interest, if possible.
- Finalize Grade 11 service learning hours a week before final report card.
- Ask for letters of recommendation from leaving teachers, if relevant.
- Discuss course options for Grade 12 with parents, teachers and ASM Administration.
- Enroll in Grade 12 courses (including electives) appropriate to your level and interests.
- Attend a summer program (sports, academic or other) or engaging in volunteer work or other work experience over the summer.

Summer between Grades 11-12:

- Research degree programs, scholarship and entry requirements.
- Contact university admissions offices to request additional information or clarify questions about application requirements, deadlines, etc.
- Finalize list of universities (10 max) – 3 safety, 4 match, 3 reach.
- Complete University Information Template provided by school. Be aware of all application and scholarship deadlines. Send template to College Counselors.
- Continue to prepare for the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ACT, TOEFL and/or IELTS exams necessary for college applications.
- Draft personal statement based on requirements (Common App, UCAS, individual school, etc.).
- Draft CV based on activities, experience and awards list started in Grade 9.
- Create Common App, UCAS and other necessary accounts and begin to populate general information (demographic data, family information, etc.).

In Grade 12:

- Schedule regular meetings with College Counselor and keep College Counselor informed of upcoming deadlines.
- Finalize CV and continue to update with additional activities, experience and awards.
- Continue acquiring and documenting service learning hours required for graduation.
- Update service learning hours at least a week before requesting transcript.
- Request transcripts in advance of deadlines.
- Continue to research universities and university programs, if necessary.
- Apply to universities and scholarships based on published deadlines
- Continue career exploration.
- Potential Art and Architecture majors should continue to build and finalize portfolio and learn CAD.
- Take any necessary standardized tests before scholarship and university application deadlines.
- Finalize personal statement(s) and supplemental writing pieces.
- Finalize Grade 12 service learning hours 2 weeks before graduation.
- Take AP exams in May.
- Meet all graduation requirements to earn diploma.
- Take any necessary SAT Subject Tests in May and June.
- Send final transcript to chosen university.