

## Websites

5. **Have your child apply to several colleges to give them options.**
6. **Throughout the year, your child should be checking in the Career Center for scholarship opportunities.** Sign up at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) for regular information on scholarships.
7. **Check the email you used in your applications daily.** Colleges and scholarship committees communicate regularly through email and you don't want to miss important messages and opportunities.
8. **In January, complete FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).** Attend the school's financial aid night to get answers to any questions you have.
9. **Request any necessary letters of recommendation for colleges and scholarships well in advance of deadlines.** Have a resume ready to give to your teachers and counselor to help them write the best letter possible.
10. **Make a decision!** In the spring, you and your child will need to make a decision about which school to commit to.
11. **Sign up for the math and English assessment/placement tests at your school of choice.**



Congratulations on Achieving Your Goal!!!

**Exploring Careers**  
[www.cacareerzone.org](http://www.cacareerzone.org)

**Exploring Colleges**  
[www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu)  
[www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com)  
[www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org) (exploring college majors)  
[www.aiccu.com](http://www.aiccu.com) (exploring private colleges)  
[www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu) (Cal State system)  
[www.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu) (UC system)

**Financial Aid**  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)  
[www.kaarme.com](http://www.kaarme.com)

**Admissions Tests**  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) (SAT)  
[www.act.org](http://www.act.org) (ACT)  
[www.kaplan.com](http://www.kaplan.com) (Test Prep)  
[www.PrincetonReview.com](http://www.PrincetonReview.com) (Test Prep)

Please visit  
**[www.canyonspringshs.org](http://www.canyonspringshs.org)**  
for more information and links to  
important sites.



## My College Bound Kid

### A Guide for Parents of College Bound Students



*Canyon Springs High School  
Guidance Department*

**951-571-4760**

# High School Year by Year



Even before your child entered high school, the goal of a college education was probably already in place. But now that they are here, it may seem overwhelming to figure out just how to help them reach that goal. The following information is a glimpse into the many ways parents can contribute to a student's successful move through high school and on to higher education.

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## 9th Grade

1. **Monitor Academic Progress.** Sit down with your student at the beginning of each term and help them set realistic goals. Then follow their progress through grade-checks or on-line. *Do not assume someone will call if there is a problem. Note that colleges do not accept grades lower than a "C".*
2. **Encourage your child to become involved in a variety of activities.** Colleges and scholarships look for a history of a student getting involved and taking leadership roles in activities on and off campus. *A student is never too young to start volunteering!*
3. **Help your child select appropriate 10th grade courses.**
4. **Help plan meaningful summer activities,** such as taking classes or doing community service.
5. **Start a college savings account.**

## 10th Grade

1. **Continue to monitor academic progress.** Remember, nothing lower than a "C".
2. **Continue to encourage involvement in activities.**
3. **Consider having your child take the PSAT** (the practice test for the SAT college admissions tests) **in October.**
4. **Explore career options.** Visit [www.cacareerzone.org](http://www.cacareerzone.org).
5. **Start to explore and discuss college options.** You can access information in the school's Career Center and on-line at sites such as [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu).
6. **Help your child select appropriate 11th grade courses.** Make an appointment with the counselor to ensure your child is on track to meet general college admissions requirements.
7. **Plan summer activities.**
8. **Record community service/volunteer hours in a journal at home.**
9. **Continue to save money!**

## 11th Grade

1. **Continue to monitor academic progress.** Colleges use Sophomore and Junior grades to calculate admissions GPA. Remember, nothing lower than a "C".
2. **Keep your student involved in activities and encourage them to take leadership roles.**
3. **Have your child register for the PSAT in September.** Not only does this October test

help prepare students for the SAT's, 11th grade scores are used to determine if the student qualifies for a National Merit scholarship.

4. **Explore college options.** Consider location, size, reputation, majors, cost, admissions policy, and specialized programs .
5. **Have your child register for the SAT and/or the ACT in the spring.** Nearly all 4 -Year institutions require one or the other for consideration for admission.
6. **Visit colleges if at all possible.**
7. **Make sure your child signs up for appropriate senior courses.** Check with the counselor to ensure they have a plan to meet all course requirements and that there is a plan to make up any "D" grades.
8. **Continue meaningful summer activities.**
9. **Continue to save!**

## 12th Grade

1. **Continue to monitor academic progress.** Beware "Senioritis"!!
2. **Set up a calendar with your child that can be used to mark deadlines, tests dates, etc.**
3. **If necessary, have your child sign up for the SAT and/or ACT.** If your child did not take one in the spring or wishes to retake the test for a better score, the last test date most colleges will accept is December.
4. **Complete college applications!** The UC and Cal State system applications must be submitted by November 30th. Check with private schools for individual deadlines.