



## Complete August through Early December (fall):

1. \_\_\_ Concentrate on your grades and review courses for the year so you take rigorous classes
  - Acceptance into college is contingent upon successful completion of 12<sup>th</sup> grade
2. \_\_\_ Evaluate your transcript with your school counselor and review requirements for graduation, vocational schools, and state college and university admissions
3. \_\_\_ Discuss your post-high school education plans with school counselor and parents/guardians
4. \_\_\_ Attend College Night at Golden Gate High School in September
5. \_\_\_ Attend Parent/Student night at your school
6. \_\_\_ Attend Financial Aid Night at your high school (Dates posted on CCPS website)
7. \_\_\_ Continue working on community service hours and other volunteering opportunities
  - You need 30 Community Service Hours to qualify for the Florida Gold Seal Scholarship, 75 hours to qualify for the Florida Medallion Scholarship and 100 hours to qualify for the Florida Academic Scholarship
    - Prior to volunteer meet with your school counselor for approved sites and to get desired site approved. You will obtain the community service form from your school counselor
8. \_\_\_ Implementing ACT/SAT study and preparation plan
  - [www.Majortests.com](http://www.Majortests.com)
  - [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
  - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
  - [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)
  - [www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com)
  - [www.KhanAcademy.com](http://www.KhanAcademy.com)
9. \_\_\_ Start taking SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and/or ACT
10. \_\_\_ Register for SAT, ACT, SAT Subject Tests in late fall, spring, and fall of your 12<sup>th</sup> grade year
  - Visit: <http://sat.collegeboard.com/register/sat-dates>
  - Visit: <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html>
  - Fee waivers available for students on free and reduced meals. Speak with your school counselor or register online with Collier County Public Schools
11. \_\_\_ Update resume with awards, honors, paid or volunteer work, and extracurricular activities
  - Colleges want to know about leadership roles
12. \_\_\_ Save work and projects samples in high school/career portfolio (shows creativity and leadership)

## Complete Mid-December through February (winter):

13. \_\_\_ If you did not pass the Florida Standards Assessment last year, plan to retake it this year
  - Must take tests prior to starting dual enrollment programs
14. \_\_\_ Look for summer programs/offerings at colleges/universities to gain real world experience
15. \_\_\_ Plan to participate in an internship or volunteer opportunity during the school year or over the summer to gain real-world experience in a field of interest or potential career path

16. \_\_\_ Research scholarship opportunities and criteria
  - Community Foundation of Collier County: <http://www.colliercountyscholarships.org/>
  - Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program: [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org)
  - Raise.me Micro Scholarships: <https://www.raise.me/>
  - SallieMae Scholarship: <https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/college-scholarships/>
17. \_\_\_ Choose your top colleges/universities/trade schools
  - Find out what standardized tests your chosen colleges/universities prefer and accept
18. \_\_\_ Research companies that provide career development and training opportunities if you plan to go straight to work after high school

**Complete March through July (spring):**

19. \_\_\_ Plan your 12<sup>th</sup> grade academic schedule with care and consideration
  - Take as many rigorous academic subjects as you can successfully handle
20. \_\_\_ Decide on which college/university/trade school you will be applying to in early fall of 12<sup>th</sup> grade
21. \_\_\_ Visit local college and university campuses, if possible
22. \_\_\_ Start looking at college applications
  - Understand the differences between rolling admissions, and early and regular decision
  - Many colleges /universities waive application fees if you qualify for the SAT/ACT test waiver
23. \_\_\_ Find out what kind of essays and supplemental material are required for college applications
  - Develop a personal statement/essay
  - Ask teachers, counselors, coaches, or other adults for Letters of Recommendation early and give them at least a two-weeks to a month period to complete
  - Find out what standardized tests your chosen colleges/universities prefer and accept
24. \_\_\_ Prepare for FAFSA and all the steps involved
  - Determine which parent's information will be used to complete the FAFSA  
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info>
  - Parent(s) and student must complete their tax returns to fill out FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if required to file. Visit <https://www.irs.gov/uac/do-i-need-to-file-a-tax-return> to determine if you need to file taxes
  - Attend tax preparation session available throughout the community such as VITA/United Way
25. Visit: <https://fsaid.ed.gov> and apply for a FSA ID. Your parent that is completing the FAFSA with you will also need to apply for their own FSA ID
26. Complete the 2019-2020 FAFSA using 2017 tax information [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
  - If you decide to start college in summer 2020, you may qualify for aid for summer by completing the 2019-2020 FAFSA. You will also complete the 2020-2021 FAFSA (available Oct.1, 2019) using your 2018 taxes
27. Update your resume to reflect activities done during the summer
28. Register to retake the SAT, SAT Subject Test, or ACT in August, September, or early October during 12<sup>th</sup> grade

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