

GREATER NANTICOKE AREA HIGH SCHOOL

11TH & 12TH GRADE TIMELINE 2019-2020

PREPARED BY THE GNA HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE OFFICE & THE GNA COLLEGE & CAREER ADVISER

Ms. Lindsay Iacovazzi, High School Counselor (Last Names A-L), Mr. William Hischak, High School Counselor (Last Names M-Z),
Ms. Jaclyn Victor, GNA High School College & Career Adviser

GRADE 11

FALL

- Start the year off strong academically. Junior year is the last full year's worth of grades a college will see on your transcript when you apply. Make sure you work hard to **keep your grades up**. If you've been struggling academically in previous years, it's not too late to turn things around! Colleges look at the overall trend of your high school career.
- **Get involved!** Start building your resume. Join a club, get involved in community service, or even get a part-time job. Use the attached Student Profile sheet to start building a list of all the activities you are involved in.
- Make a list of your **strengths, weaknesses, interests, and abilities**. This can help you think about possible major or career options *and* help you start thinking about what kind of college will best suit your needs.
- Try **Career Cruising's Matchmaker quiz**. CareerCruising.com is a website that all GNA students have access to. Log in using our GNA username and password then set up your own account. Career Cruising's Matchmaker feature will help you assess your interests and abilities. Simply answer a series of questions and Career Cruising will generate a list of careers you may be interested in. See Ms. Victor if you have any questions about Career Cruising. (**Username: Nanticoke, Password: careers**)
- Take the **PSAT** in October. Think of the PSAT as a trial run for the SAT. The format is very similar and the scores will give you a good sense of how prepared you are for the SAT. The PSAT may also qualify you for a scholarship depending on your scores!

WINTER

- Create a **Khan Academy** account and start practicing for the SATs. Khan Academy is a free, online tutoring site that can generate personalized SAT test prep questions for you. Simply go to KhanAcademy.org and create an account, then select "SAT Prep" under the subjects tab. Khan Academy will then ask you to link your College Board account to your Khan Academy account. Khan Academy will then generate questions for you based on your areas of strengths and weakness on the PSAT (or SAT, if you have taken the exam previously).
- Register for an upcoming **SAT or ACT** exam. The SAT and ACT are accepted equally by all colleges and universities. Which exam you take is completely up to you! Ms. Victor strongly advises all college-bound juniors to take *at least one* SAT or ACT by the end of their junior year. See the attached schedule for dates, locations, and prices.

SPRING

- **Meet with your counselor and college adviser.** After senior application season winds down, Ms. Victor will be meeting with all juniors individually to talk about their future plans and goals. You can also always check in with your counselor to make sure you're on track for graduation.
- Start thinking about your **senior schedule**. Make sure you choose classes that will help you get into your desired program and/or college.
- If you're interested in **joining the military***, start meeting with recruiters and considering your options. Also consider taking the **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)**.
- If you're an **athlete** who is looking to play DI or DII sports in college, check in with your coach and counselor/college adviser so you can register with the **NCAA**.
- Go on **college visits/attend college fairs**. College visits are a great way for you to learn more about a college you're interested in and to get a feel for the campus community. College visits are also an opportunity for colleges to get to know you as an applicant. Ms. Victor will organize a few campus visits for juniors in the spring as well. Keep an eye out for visit opportunities!
- **Take the SAT/ACT!**
- Considering a few different career options? Not sure which path is right for you? **Try job shadowing**.
- **Plan your summer wisely**. Consider getting a job or internship in a field you're interested in. Or look into college summer opportunities. Many colleges offer different kinds of summer programs.
- **Make a list** of about 5-10 colleges you are interested in and discuss them with Ms. Victor. Select a few schools you want to be sure you visit before the fall. Check their application requirements and deadlines.

- Politely request **letters of recommendation** from your teachers and coaches. Most colleges require two letters of recommendation. When requesting a letter of recommendation, make sure you provide your recommender with a resume/list of activities you have participated in over the course of your high school career (see attached form). This will help your recommender personalize your letter.

SUMMER

- Create a **Common App** account at CommonApp.org. The Common App is an application accepted by hundreds of colleges and universities all across the United States.
- Start drafting your **application essays/personal statements**. Most colleges require some form of writing from their applicants. Essays and personal statements are a great way for you to show your personality, share your life experiences, and introduce yourself to the application reader.
- Make a list of your **application deadlines and requirements** so you're ready to hit the ground running in the fall!

GRADE 12

FALL

- **Narrow your college list** (about 4-8 colleges). Meet with Ms. Victor to discuss this list.
- Take the **October or November SAT/September or October ACT** if you need to improve your scores.
- Put all of your **deadlines on a calendar** so you can keep track of what's due when.
- Ask teachers for **recommendations**, if you have not yet done so.
- **Apply!** Colleges have various deadlines but you should be aiming to have all of your applications submitted before winter break. See Ms. Victor if you need any help with any applications.
- Attend a **financial aid information night**. Ms. Victor will be hosting these for students and their families to explain the financial aid process.
- **October 1st: Create and FSA ID username and password and start filling out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. The FAFSA for the 2020-2021 school year will be available at fafsa.ed.gov starting October 1st, 2019. All students who are planning on attending *any* two or four year college or university should complete a FAFSA. The sooner you complete a FAFSA, the better chance you have of getting the best financial aid package possible!
- If you're planning on joining the military, make sure you have taken the **(ASVAB)**.

WINTER

- **Apply for scholarships!** Lots of local scholarships will come into the Guidance Office December-March. Check the Guidance website and Ms. Victor's scholarship box for applications. Sign-up for some national scholarship search sites as well: fastweb.com and unigo.com will send scholarship applications to your email inbox everyday based on your academic and extracurricular resume. Scholarships take some time and effort but can really pay off!
- **Resist "senioritis."** It is crucial that you keep your grades up. Most colleges ask us to send them a mid-year report of your grades and *all* colleges require a final transcript. Don't lose out on an acceptance or on scholarship money because you're not focused.
- If you're joining the military, make sure you're **meeting with your recruiter regularly** and that you are staying on top of your requirements.

SPRING

- **Collect acceptances and financial aid packages.** You will start to receive financial aid packages from December through April. Make sure you understand what kind of money you are being offered from each school. Bring your financial aid letters into Ms. Victor and she can help you break them down.
- **May 1st: National College Decision Day!** The vast majority of colleges require you to submit an enrollment (and/or housing) deposit by May 1st. Make sure you know your deadlines and have money set aside to pay your deposit. If you're worried about being able to afford your deposit, get in touch with your admissions counselor and see if they offer payment options.
- **Complete your senior survey.** Make sure you turn in your senior survey. GNA will only send your final transcript to your chosen college if you turn this survey in on time.
- **Attend Decision Day!** Ms. Victor will be hosting GNA's annual Decision Day event in May to celebrate all seniors' commitments to colleges, technical schools, jobs, and the military.