

## Waring Road Map to College

### Group 2

Don't be afraid to try new things or to dive deeper into a subject that interests you or an activity that challenges you.

Begin tracking the things you do outside of class at school and at home. Update your list every semester until you've submitted your college applications.

Read everything and anything for school, pleasure, information or news.

Remain open to new opportunities wherever they may arise.

Take PSAT in the fall.

Apply for scholarships. Enter writing, math and science competitions.

Have fun! Look for the joy in being with wonderful classmates and teachers at Waring whenever possible.

### Group 3

Ask teachers at the beginning of each semester about the expectations for earning Honors in their class.

Continue to explore ways to be involved outside of class, including during the summer.

Visit colleges for fun. Make time during a school break, a weekend or holiday to visit a college campus near home. When vacationing with your family or friends, drop by a college or university in the area just to see what it's like.

Take PSAT in the fall.

Consider taking a testing diagnostic to determine whether ACT or SAT is a better option for you.

Take a test prep course.

### Group 4

Ask teachers at the beginning of each semester about the expectations for earning Honors in their class.

Take the PSAT in the fall.

Make a preliminary list of colleges. Think about broad categories of schools and programs.

Plan college visits. If on-campus interviews are an option and you want to do them, call well in advance of your planned visit to make appointments. An informative visit will include a campus tour; talking to students in the dining hall or student center or randomly when you encounter them; sitting in on a class, if you have time; and making an appointment to chat with a professor if you are pretty clear about a subject area you want to pursue -- if the college offers that option.

For your first one or two visits, consider attending a group information session. (They tend to follow a similar format at most colleges. You will know whether you find them valuable after the first one or two.) And about on-campus interviews -- they can help you learn more about the college if you've got your questions prepared in advance *that don't address info you could have*

*gathered by researching the college's website, and how you do in them will **NOT** make or break your chances of admission, unless you are likely to freeze, in which case, don't schedule an interview!)*

Take the SAT and/or ACT in December or January.

Take one or two SAT subject tests if you are considering highly selective colleges. (Many colleges will accept the ACT in lieu of subject tests.)

Begin using *College KickStart* to develop your college list starting January 1.

Meet with Harold beginning in late January through graduation.

### **Spring:**

Identify two teachers from whom you want to request letters of recommendation, preferably before Junior Trip, and ask them if they will write for you. (You need to give them time to write a thoughtful letter.)

Plan college visits.

### **Summer before senior year:**

- begin outline(s) for your college essay.
- Visit colleges.
- Take notes after each visit. Really. If you don't, you will forget your impressions.
- Make a list of college characteristics that are important to you. Consider things like your personal values and academic priorities and whether the schools you are considering meet your expectations.
- Consider taking a testing diagnostic to determine whether ACT or SAT is a better option for you. Take a test prep course.

### **Group 5**

Ask teachers about expectations to be "on track for Honors" by midterms.

Confirm teacher recommendations or formally request them from faculty if not already confirmed.

Make a To-Do List. Target November 1 as your deadline even if you don't plan to apply Early Action or Early Decision.

Meet with Harold.

Finish your college essay.

Write your answers to supplementary questions if any of your colleges require them.

Register for standardized tests including subject tests. January test dates are usually the last time for testing for regular decision.

Use days when Waring is not in session to visit colleges.

Open Common Application Account and begin working on biographic information and activities.

Review your transcript to ensure it is accurate and complete.

Identify ED school and/or EA schools.

Decide which of your scores to send to each of your colleges.

Send thank you notes to teachers who have written letters of recommendation for you.

Breathe!