

## College Counseling Calendar: SOPHOMORE YEAR

### August

Set academic goals for the first quarter and the year. Determine the GPA you will need to recover from any low grades you might have made during your freshman year.

Make a list of the activities you were involved in your freshman year and over the summer. Include your extracurricular activities, leadership positions, community service hours, awards, memberships, and jobs. Save this list in a file to use later for college applications.

Continue to be involved in Upper School. Deepen your involvement with organizations of your choice by taking a leadership position. Consider joining a new club, or organization.

As the first quarter progresses, keep your notes and old tests in files at home for each subject so you can quickly reference them in preparation for exams.

### September

*Wednesday, Sept. 25:* Attend “Sophomore Smarts” with parents (6:30 p.m. SMP Library). This program will focus on standardized testing and you need to be doing this year to prepare for the college application process.

*Friday, Sept. 28:* Deadline to register for Oct. 26 ACT. If you are in geometry this year, consider waiting until the spring to take the ACT, as more than 60 percent of the math on the ACT is geometry. It is not necessary to take the Writing Test at this time. To register, visit [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

### October - November

*Wednesday, Oct. 16:* Take the PSAT test, a precursor to the SAT and the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship Program. For sophomores, it is a practice test only. However, a promising score opens doors to leadership programs and college recruiting. For more information, visit the College Board website at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

*Mid-October:* First quarter ends. Check your academic progress against the goals you set for yourself. Determine where improvements can be made. Ask for help if you need it. See Ms. Fournet if you need direction.

*Friday, Nov. 8:* Deadline to register for the Dec. 14 ACT.

## December

*Dec. 1 – 16:* Study for midterm exams. Review your saved notes/tests. Take advantage of tutoring sessions. Form a study group with students whose study habits you trust.

PSAT reports are distributed by email from College Board. Read the information carefully to interpret your performance. Ms. Fournet will go over these results with you in your spring meeting.

Review your performance for the first semester. Take advantage of lessons learned to make improvements for the rest of the year.

Use some of your Christmas vacation time to do volunteer work in a setting that appeals to you.

## January - February

Set new goals for the New Year. Hold yourself accountable.

Consider getting involved in a spring sport or auditioning for a student performance.

*Friday, Jan. 10:* Deadline to register for Feb. 8 ACT.

Individual meetings with Ms. Fournet to assess your academic progress and answer questions about college. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

## March - April

*Friday, March 8:* Deadline to register for April 13 ACT. If you are taking geometry as a sophomore, you should consider registering for this test or one of the summer ones since more than 60 percent of the math on the ACT is geometry, and you want to test while your knowledge is fresh. It is not necessary to take the ACT Writing Test at this time. Send your scores to UL so you will be eligible to take dual enrollment classes your junior year.

Consider applying for Lafayette Junior Leadership, a Lafayette Chamber of Commerce program for juniors across the city to network with civic leaders and learn leadership skills.

Continue to uphold your commitments to your studies and activities. Resist succumbing to spring fever. Give your best efforts on major projects such as term papers.

Seek out and enroll in summer programs that appeal to your interests. Consider programs that take you out of town or require dorm living. Identify service/leadership opportunities as well. Colleges notice students who have had a positive impact on their communities.

### May

*Friday, May 8:* Deadline to register for June 18 ACT. If you plan to take a dual enrollment class next year, you need to have a qualifying ACT score before the fall semester.

Begin studying for final exams early. Review your saved notes/tests. Take advantage of tutoring sessions. Form a study group with students whose study habits you trust.

Make sure that you have completed and turned in documentation for your 15 required service hours.

### June - July

Keep a journal of your travels. Travel, especially international travel, can add depth to a résumé or serve as a focal point in an application essay.

*Friday, June 19:* Deadline to register for the July 18 ACT.