GRADE 11

* Earn your best grades in rigorous classes.  Maintain or improve.  The 11th grade transcript is the transcript that most likely will be used by colleges/universities when considering your application.
* Continue extra-curricular involvement.  If you are spread thin, commit.  Look for any opportunity to display leadership.
* IF there is family financial need, it is critical to complete the FARMS form. For an 11th grader, the waiver is valid for many free college expenses as well as meals.

SEMESTER 1

* Mantra:  grades, rigor, commitment.
* Take the October PSAT.  For 11th grade it is the PSAT/NMQT. It is also good practice for the SAT.
* (P) Attend evening College Admissions Testing information evening.
* (P)  Attend evening Financial Aid 101 information evening.
* Take the practice SAT and practice ACT (given on Saturday, sponsored by PTSA, at B-CC, same conditions as real test, results interpretation evening) to determine which test feels best for you.
* Based on results and math level, map out an SAT/ACT/SAT Subject Test test plan.
  + Decide how to prepare for standardized tests.
  + Stay on top of registration deadlines once you have a plan.
* Attend some Fall college representative visits in the College and Career Center (Sept-Nov).
  + Choose wisely as you will miss class.  Suggestion: visit one large university, one smaller liberal arts college, and one “dream” school.
* Rainy day productivity: Use Naviance/Family Connection to do Career Interest Profiler, Strengths Explorer, Cluster Finder and Roadtrip Nation.
* Attend college information presentation in class, given by B-CC counselor (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ )
  + Know your Naviance/Family Connection username and password.
  + Start or continue forming a Colleges I’m Thinking About List.

WINTER BREAK:

* Many students devote some free time to working on Colleges I’m Thinking About over Winter break.
* Some families visit college campuses over Winter break.

SEMESTER 2

* Use Naviance, Big Future or another college search engine to develop a list of 15-20 colleges of interest to you. Store these ideas in “Colleges I’m Thinking About” because you have easy access to your comparison, the school’s website, due dates and method of application.
  + Investigate unique requirements of each college: which require SAT Subject Tests, which might be test optional, which have specific World Languages requirements, which offer interviews, how each handles AP/IB credit…
  + Discuss financial parameters with your family. How much money is available to apply to your college costs?
  + Perhaps make a family decision about when and how to talk about college related issues so you benefit from family input and your family knows your thoughts and progress.
* Meet with your Counselor and Mrs. Parmelee to ask any questions and to discuss your growing list.
* Follow through on your SAT/ACT/SAT Subject Test plan.
* Select meaningful classes for Senior year.
  + You report senior classes on college applications. (Colleges also request a mid-year and final Senior transcript…usually after you are admitted. Significant shifts in rigor and/or grades are questioned by the college/university.)
* (P and S) Attend evening Colleges That Change Lives presentations, at B-CC this year.
* Continue to refine your college list, planning any visits for Spring break.
  + Sign up on line for Information Sessions and tours.
  + Investigate unique visit plans: Open House days, overnight visits, on campus interviews, etc.

SPRING BREAK

* + Visit college campuses. If you cannot travel to schools far away, visit a school close by that has a similar profile: UMD=large research university, Goucher=small liberal arts college near a big city, St. Mary’s = small more rural liberal arts college.
  + Solidify your college list.

SEMESTER 2, Continued

* Attend the Montgomery County NACAC College Fair with B-CC. (April)
* (P and S) Attend College Admission Evening at B-CC (April)
* Register for/Take AP or IB tests.
* Decide how you will handle many of the college selection and application steps: on your own or by attending the summer College Readiness Workshops:
  + College essay, resume, financial aid and scholarships (FAFSA 10/1/16), career/major exploration/ the Common Application (8/1/16), the University of Maryland application, the B-CC self-reflection

SUMMER

* Solidify your college list. \* Attend College Readiness Workshops
* Attend Essay Writing Workshop \* Complete the B-CC Self-reflection
* Meet with your counselor to update plans. \* Complete a resume
* Commit to have at least one complete college essay by the start of school.
* Create a Common Application account and begin. August 1, 2016

NOTE: The College and Career Center is open and staffed all summer. Counselors are available by appointment.