El Camino Fundamental High School – College and Career Planning for Sophomores

Keep your grades up
There’s probably a lot competing for your attention, but it’s important to remain focused on doing well in your classes. Remember that your grades affect your GPA and class rank -- two major factors that colleges consider in the admissions process.

Prepare a challenging schedule for your junior year
Plan what classes you will take next year and your senior year. The junior year is critical for college options.

Attend a Spring College Fair
College fairs allow students to interact with admission representatives from a wide range of postsecondary institutions to discuss course offerings, admission and financial aid requirements, college life in general and other information pertinent to the college selection process. For more information visit www.wacacollegefair.com or www.wacac.org

SUMMER/FALL: Practice for college admissions tests, stay on tract, and continue building your list of colleges

Take a practice PSAT (Practice Scholastic Aptitude Test)
Taking the PSAT as a sophomore in October 2015 will help prepare you for the real thing next year. It also allows you to release your name to colleges so you can start receiving brochures from them, further building out your college lists and preparing for college research. Visit the SAT website at www.sat.collegeboard.com

Learn about the Method Test Prep for PSAT and SAT
You have been provided with access to Method Test Prep, an online program that will help you build your math, reading, writing skills for the PSAT/SAT college entrance exams. You can access this program through your Naviance Family Connection www.connection.naviance.com/elcaminohs account. Your login will be your Zangle ID # and password.

Learn about the ACT
Visit the American College Testing at www.act.org to learn about the ACT and to help you prepare to take the ACT in the spring of your junior year.

Stay on track with your courses
Review your transcript to make sure you’re enrolled in the courses you need to prepare you for college or a career. Move on to the next level of classes in the core subjects (English, math, science, history and a foreign language).

Begin learning about the college admissions process
Get familiar with general college entrance requirements (A-G college eligibility requirements). Visit your school library College and Career Center and the downtown library College and Career Center (www.saclibrary.org) or at American River College. You must visit college websites and read college information; all good sources of information.

Continue exploring potential careers
Explore your career options in more detail -- research possible careers to learn about the tasks, education, and training necessary for each occupation. Take a career assessment through your Naviance account www.connection.naviance.com/elcaminohs

WINTER/SPRING: Get involved, read, practice writing, and refine your college list

Make Your List of Colleges
For this spring/summer and next school year, you’ll want to stay on track with your high school classes and activities and begin to narrow down the plan for your future. Continue to explore your college options and build your list of colleges.

Take on new roles
Stay involved with your extracurricular activities and work toward leadership positions in the activities you like best. Become involved in community service and other volunteer activities. These will look great to the schools on your college list.

Read, read, read
Developing your reading skills will help prepare you for tests and make you a well-rounded individual. Read as many books as you can and read the newspaper to learn about current affairs.

Practice your writing
You’ll need good writing skills no matter what path you pursue, so work on those skills now to get prepared. Find a teacher or another adult who can advise and encourage you to write well.

Start your college search
Use college finders and college search tools to decide what factors are important to you and see a list of colleges that matches your criteria. Attend college fairs and read the material you get from all types of schools -- you may see something you like.

Visit Colleges
Visit the campus of your top five-eight college choices. Take a tour and speak with the admission and financial aid staff. Talk with students if some classes are in session.