11th Grade College Planning Checklist

- ❏ **Research about colleges**
  - ❏ Browse the official college websites
    - ❏ Look at majors, campus life, student life, etc.
  - ❏ Create organized files for each college
    - ❏ Keep important documents from tours, fairs, visits, financial aid, etc.
- ❏ **Check college resources**
  - ❏ See if there are any college nights or college fairs in your local area
- ❏ **Schedule a time to take the SAT in the Spring**
  - ❏ Begin studying early
- ❏ **Determine if you need to take the SAT subject tests**
  - ❏ If you are going to take them, it would be best to take the subject test when that subject is fresh in your mind
- ❏ **Explore AP and/or Dual Enrollment options**
  - ❏ You can possibly earn college credit while still in high school
- ❏ **By Winter, narrow down your college list to 10-15 colleges**
  - ❏ Think about reach and safety schools in that list
- ❏ **Stay open to all options for a future college**
  - ❏ Do not limit yourself to a specific school or type of school
  - ❏ You need to pick the college that you are going to be successful at academically and a college that you could see yourself being happy at
- ❏ **Spring: Take SAT**
  - ❏ Typically the SAT is offered March, May and June
  - ❏ If you are not happy with your score(s) you can always retake the test in the Fall
  - ❏ Many students who take the test a second time as seniors do better
- ❏ **Together with you parents/guardians start to gather financial aid documents**
  - ❏ Have a copy of tax returns
    - ❏ These documents will help you when you fill out the FAFSA
      - ❏ The FAFSA opens up October

<u>Summer Plans:</u>
- ❏ **Visit colleges**
  - ❏ As you begin to narrow down your list, go on more college campuses
  - ❏ Talk to current students, alumni, admissions officers
- ❏ **Create a resume**
  - ❏ If you have not already done so, create a resume
    - ❏ This should highlight any work experiences, extracurricular and academic accomplishments
      - ❏ Do not forget leadership roles
  - ❏ Think about ways you can build your resume over the summer
- ❏ **Check application dates**
  - ❏ These vary by college and if you are doing early action/decision
  - ❏ Make a calendar of these important dates