

# COLLEGE PLANNING

## for 10<sup>th</sup> graders

### 1. Review your curriculum.

- Create / update your four-year high school plan. **Be sure your course schedule is challenging enough to prepare you for college.**
- Continue to study hard to increase your GPA.

### 2. Testing Strategy

- Take the **PSAT**. When taken in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, this test allows you to work on any academic area of weakness while there is still plenty of time to make improvements.
- Take a practice **ACT** to get a sense of the difference between the SAT and ACT.
- Take the **SAT Subject Test** for any subject that you studied sophomore year at the honors level, right after your final exam – while the knowledge is still fresh! (Ex: AP World History, Honors Chemistry)

### 3. Research colleges and universities.

- Attend College Previews – a college fair (hosted by Greenhill, Hockaday, Parish, St. Mark's, and ESD) that is an opportunity to meet with 250+ college representatives in a smaller atmosphere.
- Meet with representatives from colleges that interest you as they visit ESD. Take their business cards, and fill out their inquiry cards.
- Research college websites to gain information on academics, activities, and admission requirements.

### 4. Develop your résumé.

- Participate in school activities, outside activities, or volunteer efforts.
- Attend in-school résumé workshop session.

### 5. Tour college campuses.

- If on vacation near a college campus, drive or walk through just to get the feel of the campus (ex: large vs. small, public vs. private).

### 6. Plan to make your summer productive.

- Read as much as you can to improve your vocabulary, consider taking a summer course or special academic program on a college or university campus, consider prepping for junior-year standardized tests, and consider getting a summer job or doing more community service work.

### 7. Start exploring Naviance.

[www.connection.naviance.com/esdallas](http://www.connection.naviance.com/esdallas)

- Your username is your ESD email address. *(If you don't remember your password, just click, "forgot your password?" Enter your ESD email address on the next screen.)*
- Start a list of "**colleges I'm thinking about**" to receive important emails about fall college rep visits to ESD.
- Explore **scattergrams** and **college compare** functions to see how ESD students stack up.