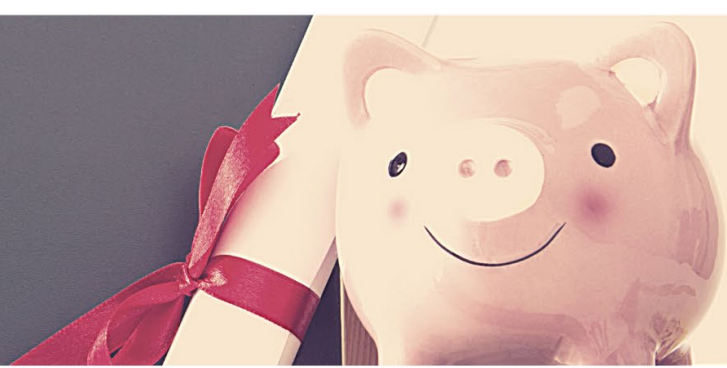


COLLEGE PREP



GRADE 8

- ✓ Each student will carefully complete a four-year high school academic plan in their Career Pathways Course.
- ✓ Each student will have an opportunity to explore their individual interests as they prepare for higher education and the world of work.
- ✓ Parents and students will be invited to a general information session in the spring.
- ✓ It is strongly recommended that each student carefully read the course selection guide and carefully choose courses for high school.
- ✓ Look over specific college catalogs and publications that give college profiles.

GRADE 9

- ✓ Goals and objectives that were chosen in the eighth grade will be re-evaluated during ninth grade course planning period.
- ✓ Careful consideration should be given to reviewing the four-year graduation plan with your high school counselor and parents.
- ✓ Students should continue exploring their interests in Xello and through online resources.
- ✓ Each high school has a Go Center available to further college research and assistance.
- ✓ Students should also review college catalogs and publications which give college profiles.
- ✓ Attend the MISD College and Career Night in the fall.
- ✓ Begin keeping in your portfolio: report cards, test scores, honors, school activities, community activities, and work experience.
- ✓ Students may also want to keep samples of their major school projects, papers, etc. Know NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) requirements if you want to play sports in college.
- ✓ Take courses that are challenging and work to your full potential.
- ✓ Be a self-advocate, attend tutorials and do not let yourself fall behind in classes.
- ✓ **Remember, to qualify for access to dual credit courses students must have an overall grade point average of at least an 80.**

GRADE 10

- ✓ Review the four-year graduation plan.
- ✓ Take courses that are challenging and continue working to full potential.
- ✓ Take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) as practice for the PSAT/NMSQT that juniors take for scholarship consideration.
- ✓ Analyze the PSAT results and establish personal goals in January.
- ✓ Begin searching for scholarships. Apply if you qualify.
- ✓ Continue to review college publications.
- ✓ Begin to visit colleges in the summer, especially if you are interested in a highly selective college.
- ✓ Study to make grades representative of abilities.
- ✓ Continue adding to your portfolio.

GRADE 11

- ✓ Review graduation plans and narrow college choices.
- ✓ Confer with parent(s) and the counselor to decide on courses for the senior year and to discuss post-graduation plans.
- ✓ Contact the colleges and speak with an admissions officer about the specific courses they require
- ✓ Go online and view the entrance course requirements.
- ✓ Take challenging courses.
- ✓ Attend the MISD College and Career Night in the fall and talk to the college personnel.
- ✓ Take the PSAT offered only once per year in October.
- ✓ Apply for any scholarships that your parents' employers may provide and any scholarships that are available to junior competition.
- ✓ Take the SAT and/or ACT in the late spring.
- ✓ Visit colleges in the summer.
- ✓ Send for college information and applications.
- ✓ Make grades representative of your ability.
- ✓ Continue adding to your portfolio.

GRADE 12

- ✓ Finalize college choices and send letters/ applications.
- ✓ Check with the campus counseling center, Internet resources, and the college website to apply for any qualifying scholarships.
- ✓ Confer with your counselor in early fall.
- ✓ Obtain a FAFSA ID and Complete the FAFSA starting October 1.
- ✓ Attend the MISD College and Career Night
- ✓ Take the SAT and/or ACT and necessary achievement tests.
- ✓ Send regular decision applications in the fall semester & secure housing-especially to colleges that are highly competitive for dorm space.

Financial Aid

The Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA) is not available until October. The information for the application is based on income tax returns. Through this application, eligibility is determined for grants, loans, work-study programs, and some scholarships. You may apply on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Starting with the class of 2022, all seniors must complete or formally opt-out of the FAFSA in order to graduate.

Scholarships

The best resource for scholarship information is directly from the financial aid office at the college(s) you wish to attend. The counseling center on your high school campus will also have information about certain scholarships. Most scholarship opportunities are now posted online, allowing student's the opportunity to do local and national scholarship searches on their own.

Texas Grant

The purpose of the Texas Grant is to provide grant money to enable well-prepared, eligible students to attend public and private colleges and universities in Texas. The awards may be used at a Texas college or university, both public and private. Awards to students attending Texas private colleges and universities are based on public university amounts. To apply, first complete the FAFSA form. You will then work with the financial aid office at the college or university you plan to attend to determine if you are eligible.

Apply Texas

Texas offers a common application for all public universities. This application may be obtained from the counseling center on your high school campus or online at www.applytexas.org.

College Checklists from College Board

Click on the link below and it will take you directly to the form created by College Board. The form is also available on their website @collegeboard.org.

9th Grade	Financial Aid Check List
10th Grade	Campus Visit Check List
11th Grade	11th Grade Family Plan
12 th Grade	12th Grade Family Plan

NOTE: College Board provides students with recommendations for each grade level as they prepare for a post-secondary education. The College Board checklists in our Academic Planning guide are great planning tools. Students may also visit the College Board website directly. Along with College Board, several vetted sources provide students and families with a wealth of information necessary to keep them on track during the college planning process. Some of those sources with links are listed below. Families are encouraged to visit those sites for self-guided understanding or visit with their academic counselor. A link to MISD Counselor information is also provided. These links represent a sampling of the many places we recommend for students/families. Again, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to visit with your counselor.

MISD GUIDANCE & COUNSELING DEPARTMENT	COLLEGE BOARD & BIG FUTURE (PAGES INCLUDED IN APPENDIX)	FAFSA
TEXAS ONCOURSE	ACT	GENTEX
INSPIRED (GO CENTER)	NCAA	ROAD TRIP NATION