

# 3-MONTH checklist



## HIGH SCHOOL SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER TO-DOS

At Private Prep we use a team approach to support students in all aspects of learning. We've incorporated these in to a list of big to-dos so you can get the year started on the right foot.

### ALL STUDENTS

- ✓ Take time to organize your materials; determine how and where you will keep notes for each class.
- ✓ Create a homework routine; decide when and where you will do your work.
- ✓ If you're having trouble understanding subject matter, ask for help. Teachers, your parents, classmates and tutors all can help you get over the hump if you feel stuck.
- ✓ Set realistic goals for each of your classes and create a plan to reach your goals; focus on process-oriented goals, rather than just outcomes. Be sure to revisit your goals and adjust them as necessary.

### FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES

- ✓ College applications may seem far away, but your grades in freshman and sophomore year will appear on your transcript. So stay focused and put your best foot forward this year.
- ✓ Sophomores, consider taking the PSAT, if it is not required by your school.

### JUNIORS

- ✓ Take a diagnostic test for the ACT and the SAT to start building your test prep plan.
- ✓ If you're a rockstar standardized test taker hoping to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship (NM), take the PSAT. It can be good practice for those preparing for the SAT it can be good practice, even if you aren't a NM contender.
- ✓ Talk to your tutor about when your first ACT/SAT should be, then register. The earlier you do so, the more options you have for testing locations.
- ✓ Deepen your engagement in extracurricular activities that you are most passionate about; take on leadership positions when appropriate.

### SENIORS

- ✓ Start the year off strong at school. Your grades still count!
- ✓ Complete your college essay and any supplements.
- ✓ Get to know colleges and attend any info sessions hosted by them in your area or at your school.
- ✓ Research and add application deadlines to your calendar. Consider whether you plan to apply to Early Decision and/or Early Action.
- ✓ Learn the protocol at your school for getting recommendations and transcripts.
- ✓ If you're taking the October SAT/ACT or November SAT, your scores are still often fair game for early applications, but there won't be enough time to preview your score. You can usually notify colleges that scores are on their way, but make sure schools of interest are direct recipients of your score reports.
- ✓ Finalize any ED and EA applications due in November.
- ✓ After November deadlines: exhale and pat yourself on the back. Give yourself a week off from college stuff. You deserve it!

*The first months of school are important for setting a strong foundation for the year ahead. Contact us if have any questions or need guidance along the way.*

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