

# Counseling General Calendar Time Line

## GRADE 9

September	Students should become involved in school/community activities. Attend the Henderson activities fair. Sign up for several activities of interest. Choose a few for deep commitment rather than multiple ones for superficial involvement. Homecoming and student government are great ways to get involved.
October	Participate in the Counseling Department assemblies during tenth and eleventh grade PSAT testing.
November	Take stock and evaluate your first marking period success. Where are you in relationship to the goals you set before the school year began?
December-February	Freshman conferences with student's individual counselor.
January- March	Course selection process. What levels do you want to pursue as a sophomore? What were you recommended for? Re-evaluate what type of effort and commitment is needed to achieve your academic goals and how they play into your Individual Goal Plan.
April	Take part in Career Day. Identify a couple of careers that you might have an interest in and learn more about them.
June	Gain some summer work experience and explore community volunteer opportunities.

## GRADE 10

September	Become aware of PSAT. Become involved in school/community activities. Attend the activities fair. Choose a few activities/clubs for deep commitment rather than superficial involvement in many. Encourage parents to attend College Planning Night. Verify correctness of levels and make sure you are challenging yourself based upon ninth grade results.
October	Take the PSAT.
November	Take stock and evaluate with your counselor your first marking period success. Make use of resources that can assist you in reaching your goals.
December	Review your PSAT test results. Schedule conference with your counselor if you have any questions.
January-March	Course Selection! Choose carefully, keeping in mind what you need for college planning. Use the Naviance Family Connection computer program to become knowledgeable about careers and colleges. Participate in the Counseling Department developmental guidance lesson.
April	Take part in Career Day. Identify a couple of careers that you might have an interest in and learn more about them.
June	Parents should try to include college campus visits in vacation plans.

## GRADE 11

September	Junior year is the last year that factors into your cumulative G.P.A. that will be reflected on your senior year transcript. Become deeply involved in one or more student activities and try to make a noteworthy contribution to one area.
October-	Take the PSAT/NMSQT. Become aware of SAT I and ACT deadlines.
December	Register for Spring SAT I and SAT II if needed. Encourage parents to attend College Planning Night.
January- February	Course selection! Choose carefully, considering your post-high school plans. Take challenging schedule of course. Attend individual junior conference with your counselor.
March	Register for May AP tests.
April	You receive confirmation of course selection made earlier. Make changes if needed. Take part in Career Day. Identify a couple of careers that you might have an interest in and learn more about them. Be sure your course selected for next year help match with your career interests.
May	Take the AP tests. Attend the Main Line College Fair. Begin application process for U.S. Service Academies and ROTC programs. Contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives for nomination forms, procedures, etc.
June	Include campus visits in your vacation plans. Complete admissions applications in the summer. Develop a list of six (6) colleges-two reach, two target and two "safety" schools.

## GRADE 12

September	Register for October or November SAT I or ACT test. Be aware of requirements of colleges being considered. Arrange to take SAT II tests, if needed, and pick up the CSS Profile, if required.
September/ October	Be sure to meet with your counselor for your senior conference. Work on college applications-get recommendations. Complete financial aid (FASFA) forms online. Beware of college deadlines for financial aid forms! Encourage parents to attend Financial Aid Night.
September-	Meet with college representatives. Attend local college fairs, including PACAC and NACAC.
December	Become aware of scholarships, sent via email and on the website. Work on college applications; please complete before Winter Vacation
February	Request mid-term grades to be sent, if your college asks for them.

March/-  
June

Please inform the Counseling Office of schools that send acceptance letters to you. Inform Counseling Office of your final college choice. Complete your mandatory senior survey.

## TESTING TERMS

Test requirements vary among colleges as does the weight the test scores carry in the admissions decision. Below are definitions of the most widely used tests. Check collegeboard.org and act.org websites for dates and deadlines.

**PSAT/NMSQT:** The PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) provides a practice test for college bound students in the fall of their junior year. It is also used to identify top scholars in the country who may receive merit scholarships. The PSAT scores are divided into three sections, critical reading, math, and writing, and range from 20 to 80. The NMSQT Selection Index is determined by adding the total of the critical reading, math and writing scores. PSAT scores are not usually used by colleges as admissions criteria, and are not included on a student's transcript.

**\*SAT I (Reasoning Test):** The SAT *Reasoning* Test (also known as SAT I) is one of the factors used as a college admissions criteria. It is a multiple-choice test that is designed to test the student's aptitude for scholastic work (not intelligence). The SAT is usually taken in the spring of the junior year and again in the fall of the senior year. Scores are broken down into evidence based reading and writing and math broken into 200 to 800 per section. Total scores range from 600-1600, where 1600 would be a perfect score. A writing section is an optional portion on the exam. Colleges differ on the average SAT score which they expect of applicants.

**\*SAT II (Subject Tests):** The SAT *Subject* Tests (also known as SAT II's) cover special academic areas (e.g. Mathematics, English, and Chemistry). These tests are taken either at the end of the junior year or the beginning of the senior year. SAT II's, like SAT I's, are scored on the 200-800 scale. Some colleges use the SAT II's for placement in various levels of freshman courses; some use them as an additional indicator in the admissions process. Check a college's catalog or website to see if SAT II's are required.

**AP:** Advanced Placement Tests are usually taken after a student has completed an Advanced Placement course in a specific academic area. Henderson High School presently offers AP courses in English 11, English 12, American Government, American History, European History, Chemistry II, Physics II, Biology II, Computer Science A and AB, Calculus AB and BC, Statistics, Psychology, Portfolio Development, and World Languages. AP Exams are administered in May at Henderson and cost approximately \$87.00 per test. Students can earn college credit and/or advanced standing in college based on their scores that range from 1 to 5.

**\*ACT:** The American College Testing Program is used primarily in the Midwest and some parts of the South in place of the SAT. The ACT combines certain aspects of both SAT I and SAT II into one test. It is a multiple-choice test and the scores range from 0 to 36. There are four parts to the test: English, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

\*Students register online at <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/index.html?student> (SAT) and <http://www.actstudent.org/> (ACT).

- SAT I and SAT II tests are often given at the same time and on the same dates.
- Students must register in advance to take either the SAT I or up to three SAT II tests on one date.
- **SAT Scores are not printed on transcripts! Please take advantage of the opportunity to send *four* free score reports to colleges of your choice when filling out your SAT registration form (p. 1, item 11a), even if you are not sure you are applying to the four colleges you choose.**

**TEST CENTER NUMBER:**

Henderson's School Code: (for SAT I, SAT II and ACT tests): **395170**

**FEE WAIVER OPPORTUNITIES:** Students unable to pay the fees of the SAT I, SAT II, and ACT examinations may request a fee waiver from the Counseling Office. Students may also request a fee waiver for college application fees and the Financial Aid Form published by the College Scholarship Service. Visit your guidance counselor to see if you are eligible.

## Credits and Weighing Scale

### Credit load requirement per grade:

- 9TH GRADE - 6.0 CREDITS
- 10TH GRADE - 6.0 CREDITS
- 11TH GRADE - 6.4 CREDITS
- 12TH GRADE - 5.4 CREDITS
- MAXIMUM CREDITS - 7.0 CREDITS (without a parent signed Delete Lunch form)

### Credits needed for promotion to next grade:

- 10TH GRADE = 5 CREDITS
- 11TH GRADE = 11 CREDITS
- 12TH GRADE = 17 CREDITS
- GRADUATION = 23.8 CREDITS

### Grade Point Average:

#### Grading System:

- **A +=97-100**
- **A = 93-96** **EXCELLENT**
- **A- = 90-92**
- **B+ = 87-89**
- **B = 83-86** **GOOD**
- **B- = 80-82**
- **C+ = 77-79**
- **C = 73-76** **AVERAGE**
- **C- = 70-72**
- **E = 60-69 (eligible for summer school), F = below 60 (Not eligible for summer school)**

## ❖ G.P.A. Information:

- ACADEMIC LEVEL ELECTIVE COURSE HAVE NEUTRAL WEIGHTING
  - Students can 'opt-in' to have these classes included into their GPA
- COLLOQUIUM AND PAIDEIA ARE NOT INCLUDED IN GPA
- ALL OTHER CLASSES TAKEN IN HIGH SCHOOL ARE INCLUDED IN THE CALCULATION OF A STUDENT'S GPA

## ❖ The WCASD Quality Point Scale:

GRADE	College & Career Prep	HONORS	Accelerated Honors/AP
A+ = 97-100	4.3	4.73	5.16
A = 93-96	4.0	4.4	4.8
A- = 90-92	3.7	4.07	4.44
B+ = 87-89	3.3	3.63	3.96
B = 83-86	3.0	3.3	3.6
B- = 80-92	2.7	2.97	3.24
C+ = 77-79	2.3	2.53	2.76
C = 73-76	2.0	2.2	2.4
C- = 70-72	1.7	1.87	2.04
E = 60-69 (Non-passing; eligible for summer school, zero quality points)			
F = Below 60 (Not eligible for summer school, zero quality points)			

## The old family recipe for figuring out your G.P.A.

- 1. CREDIT VALUE OF THE ATTEMPTED COURSE MULTIPLIED BY THE QUALITY POINT VALUE FOR THE GRADE RECEIVED = QUALITY PTS.
- 2. FIND THE SUM OF ALL QUALITY POINTS
- 3. DIVIDE THE TOTAL QUALITY POINTS BY THE TOTAL CREDITS ATTEMPTED
- So let's do an example: Algebra I CCP final grade is B+ so that's 3.3 Quality Points, African Asian Accelerated Honors final grade is a B- so that's 3.24 Quality Points and Health Fitness final grade is an A so that's 4.0 quality points.
- 11 total quality points divided by 3 credits attempted computes to a G.P.A. of 3.51 (rounded)

## ❖ IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO IMPROVE YOUR G.P.A. ... START TODAY!