

Goal for 11th grade

Build and Build and Build

Start seriously considering college options: Try building in college tours into family trips, research fields of interest, find mentors/heroes and ask their advice, look for your fit; think about learning environments, class size, women's colleges, HBCU's, small private vs big public, geography, return on investment, etc.

Identify letter writers: teachers/mentors/coaches you have good rapport with and could write strong letters of rec for you

AP/IB: While grades matter, taking the most challenging classes is more impressive, a B or C in an AP/IB is better than an A in easier classes. Also take the tests if you can, its cheaper than college.

Tests: PSAT/NMSQT is in OCTOBER

Plan on taking ACT or SAT junior year in Nov/Dec, March/April

Extracurriculars

Try going narrow and deep; fewer activities but take on leadership roles

Support your shape

If you are 'pointy' start doing research or taking classes. If round focus on excellence

Grades

These are the ones colleges look at first, make them as strong as possible

SUMMER—Relax, enjoy and specialize.

Take a week or two to recover from that intense junior year, then go deep into an activity you enjoy, or take a summer class.