

College List for 11th Grade Students

1. Sign up for the SAT and/or ACT (www.collegeboard.com and/or www.actstudent.org) Studies show that students who practice can improve their scores. Students may use the practice tests on the websites, in prep books, prep cd's, and prep courses. **Students on free/reduced lunch may get fee waivers. Free/Reduced Lunch (Rm. 109) and Fee Waivers (See Ms. Spence, Counselor, during lunch-Rm.119)**
If a fee waiver is used for the SAT, student will also be eligible for 4 free college application fees.
2. Register for PrepHQ at www.prephq.com (School or Program ID is txbellaire.) Then go to "click here to register". **PrepHQ has scholarship info, college search information, college visit information, a resume maker to complete, summer programs, and more.** Another way to access PrepHQ is from the counselor page on the Bellaire website (www.bellaire.org). Put colleges in your college organizer.
3. PRACTICE for the SAT and ACT. There are FREE practice websites on the PrepHQ Welcome Page
4. Search for colleges. There are many under "Shopping for College" on the PrepHQ Welcome Page
5. Look for scholarships on the PrepHQ scholarship tab. There are many for juniors!
6. Mark your calendar for the following events designed for students in grade 11.
 - **Linda Lorelle Scholarship is open for juniors – To apply, go to www.lindalorelle.org Due Feb. 20, 2009**
 - **National College Fair**, Sunday, April 5, 1-4 p.m., sponsored by the National Association of College Admission Counselors. Go to www.nacacnet.org to register.
7. Plan college visits. Make appointments for tours. Be sure to ask current students what they like and don't like about the college. This is probably the best way to find your "best fit" school. Make up your mind based on your own needs, not your friends' needs. See attendance clerk about excused absences.
8. Get to know College Admission Representatives. Some college reps actually keep count of the number of times that students (not parents) make contact, either by e-mail, college visits, and meetings with reps. Ask lots of questions. Remember that the answers to your questions differ from college to college.
9. The spring counselor meeting is very important. Be prepared with questions to ask. Choose challenging classes for your senior year. College admission representatives look at the strength of your classes for your senior year. Choose carefully, because the school's master schedule is built around your requests. You will not be able to drop and add classes in the fall semester. Make any changes BEFORE you leave school for the summer break.
10. Make good use of your summer. See the many ideas on PrepHQ.
11. Work on your résumé. You can find a resume maker on PrepHQ under "My College Planner". You will need this information when you apply to colleges. Enhancing the High School Resume-community service, job experience, extracurricular activities, leadership, awards and honors.
12. GPA, Class Rank, and Transcript Application Process
13. Exit Level TAKS (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies) See Bellaire High School Calendar.
14. Night and weekend school/Summer School/Virtual School/On-Line Classes – See Counselor
15. Advanced Placement Courses/Requirements IB Diploma – Mr. Jamie Schaaf
jschaaf@houstonisd.org
16. Advantages of a College Education – more career possibilities and more \$
17. THEA required for enrollment at Texas public universities (www.thea.nesinc.com)
THEA exemptions – (Confirm with university.)
 - TAKS (exit-level) - 2200 in math and 2200 in English/Language Arts (ELA) with a writing sub score of at least 3
 - SAT - a combined score of 1070 with a 500 on the math and verbal sections
 - ACT - a composite score of 23 with a 19 on the Math and English sections

18. SSD – For students with disabilities - Apply to College Board/ACT early for modifications. See Ms. Hill, Counselor, Room 119, during lunch for an application.
19. College Application Process
- Shopping for colleges. Look at PrepHQ.
 - Considerations (location, size, major, cost, activities, etc.)
 - Narrowing the list
 - Apply (Early Decision? Early Action?)
 - Top 10% rule – www.collegefortexans.com
 - Deadlines (Postmarked by or Received by?)
 - Essays (Summer is not too early to begin your essays!)
 - Request transcript/counselor recommendation form/allow 1 month not including holidays
 - Teacher/Counselor recommendations (allow 1 month NOT including holidays) – Make a “brag sheet” by completing a Senior Recommendation Form (www.bellaire.org – counselor page)
 - Financial Aid www.collegefortexans.com, Complete a FAFSA after 1/1! www.fafsa.ed.gov It’s FREE! (Some private schools require a CSS/profile.)
 - Scholarships See PrepHQ
 - NCAA www.ncaa.org
20. What I wish I had known last year at this time....

BEWARE of Scholarship Schemes – The Better Business Bureau advises students and their parents to be cautious about responding to unsolicited offers from scholarship services that require application fees. Check such offers with the Better Business Bureau.

Texas Grant

The purpose of the program is to provide a grant of money to enable well-prepared eligible students to attend public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education in Texas. The priority in making awards is to provide continued funding to recipients already enrolled in the program who are in college and are making progress towards their degrees. You apply for the TEXAS Grant when you complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or other application as required by your college's financial aid office. Funding is limited, so you need to submit your application as soon as possible after January 1 of your senior year. The financial aid office at each college and university will determine if the TEXAS Grant is part of the aid package that is offered to you. www.fafsa.ed.gov

Scholarship Program for Early High School Graduates

The Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program is a financial assistance program for students who graduate from high school in fewer than four years. For more information, see www.collegefortexans.com.

Top 10 Percent Rule for Admissions

To be eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas, a student must:

1. Graduate in the top 10 percent of his or her class at a public or private high school in Texas, or
2. Enroll in college no more than two years after graduating from high school; and
3. Submit an application to a Texas public university for admission before the institution's application deadline (check with the university regarding specific deadlines).
4. Students admitted through this route may still be required to provide SAT or ACT scores, although these scores are not used for admissions purposes. Students must also take the THEA test, unless exempted from the test requirement. Check with the admissions office regarding THEA (www.thea.nesinc.com), SAT (www.collegeboard.com), and ACT (www.actstudent.org) requirements

Admission to a university does not guarantee acceptance into a particular college of study or department, however. For more information, see www.collegefortexans.com.

Recommended Diploma Graduation Requirements (Texas Scholars Program)

English Language Arts	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits (at least 3 in High School)
To include Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 (If needed to strengthen math skills, Math Models may follow or be taken concurrently with geometry.)	
Science	3 credits (at least 3 in High School)
Three of these credits to include Biology and two other credits to be chosen from these areas: 1. Integrated Physics and Chemistry; 2. Chemistry; or 3. Physics	
Social Studies	4 credits
World Geography Studies, World History Studies, U.S. History Since Reconstruction, U.S. Government, and Economics	
Languages Other Than English (LOTE)	2 credits in the same language
Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, Spanish (All freshman are encouraged to begin a LOTE.)	
Fine Arts	1 credit
Art, Theatre, Band, Orchestra, Choir, Dance, Guitar (10-12)	
Communication Applications (Speech)	1/2 credit
Students may take Debate (1 credit) and test out of Comm. App.	
Technology Applications (Computer)	1 credit
BCIS (Business Computer Information Systems), BIMM (Business Image Management and Multimedia), Webmastering, Media Technology, Video Technology, Computer Science (Some computer classes are offered as AP or dual credit HCC classes.)	
Physical Education	1 1/2 credits including Foundations of Personal Fitness (one-half credit). (Limit- total of two PE credits.)
Students may substitute: Belles, marching band, cheerleading, JROTC, athletics, Dance I-IV, approved private program, or certain Career/Technology Education courses.	
Health Education	1/2 credit
Electives	3 1/2 credits
(May include courses over and above those required.) Health, Keyboarding, Personal & Family Development A and/or B, Art, Theatre, Band, Orchestra, Choir, Dance, Intro. to Business, Marketing Yourself, Intro. to World of Ag., Intro. to Ag. Mechanics, Exploring Modern Languages	
TOTAL	24 CREDITS

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

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