CHOICES AFTER GRADUATION

Work
• Possible job openings can be found by searching online or via the classified section in the newspaper
• A resume and contacts in your chosen field will assist in decision making
• Earn money while deciding on post-secondary training or college

Business, Trade or Technical Programs
• Many business, trade, and technical education opportunities are available through community colleges, such as Houston Community College www.hccs.edu or Lone Star College www.lonestar.edu
• Prepares students for employment in specific fields, i.e. computer programming, auto repair, cosmetology, health occupations, etc.
• Length of programs vary from several weeks to several years
• Cost of programs vary

Military
• Branches offer more than 1500 different specialized occupations
• Enlistees are paid while they attend training
• All interested individuals are required to take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) to measure strengths, weaknesses, and potential careers
• Reserve Officers Training Corps- ROTC See recruiter or university for additional information

Post-Secondary Education
• Community colleges, including Houston Community College www.hccs.edu and Lone Star College www.lonestar.edu
• Universities include both state-funded and private 4-year institutions offering a wide array of courses of study
• Military Academies, including US Military Academy at West Point, US Air Force Academy, US Naval Academy, US Merchant Marine Academy, and US Coast Guard Academy. Interested students must plan early. The application process begins during the Junior year of high school

Helpful Websites
Texas Workforce Commission (TWC): Job opportunities & Job training: www.twc.state.tx.us
Texas 2 and 4 year Colleges: www.collegeforalltexans.com
Career Development Resources; 1-800-822-PLAN, Multiple state agencies connect you with information about occupations, wages, job futures, etc.
**TERMS TO KNOW**

**PSAT:** The PSAT is a standardized test typically administered to high school sophomores and juniors, though some freshmen, 7th, and 8th graders also elect to take the test. High school juniors’ PSAT scores are used to determine eligibility and qualification for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

**SAT Reasoning Test:** The SAT is a general, standardized college admissions test. The SAT measures mathematical problem-solving, critical reading, and writing. Each section is reported on a scale of 200 – 800 points. Take this test for the first time no later than the spring of the junior year. A redesigned SAT will be administered beginning in March of 2016. Current juniors will take this redesigned test.

**SAT Subject Tests:** Tests are one-hour, mostly multiple-choice tests, that measure how much students know about a subject. Twenty-two different tests are given in 5 general areas; English, history, science, math, and foreign languages. Students should check with the admissions officer of their chosen colleges or universities to determine if SAT Subject Tests are required for admission and in what areas.

**ACT:** The ACT is a general standardized college admissions test. The highest total score on the ACT is 36. Students who are less strong in math may want to consider taking this test. The test includes a science section. Currently, the writing portion is added as a supplemental test and must be taken if used for admission purposes. Your counselor can help you decide whether SAT or ACT is best for you.

**THEA (Texas Higher Education Assessment):** A Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment designed to provide information about the reading, mathematics, and writing skills of students entering public colleges, universities, and educator preparation programs in public and private institutions. Students may be exempted from this test based on ACT or SAT scores. Check with your counselor to see if you are exempt. If not, plan to take the test in the spring of your senior year.

**Recommended High School Program (RHSP):** 26-credit, 4x4 graduation plan that applies to current high school students through the graduating class of 2017.

**Distinguished Achievement Plan (DAP):** The highest Texas high school graduation plan, which requires 3 years of the same foreign language, disallows IPC or MMA to be used as one of the four required math or science credits, and also requires the successful completion of four advanced measures. Advanced measures are defined in the course catalog, or consult your school counselor. Current high school students, through the graduating class of 2017, may be eligible for DAP recognition.

**Virtual, Online, and Correspondence Courses:** Options are limited in number, type, and timeline. Students must secure approval from their counselor prior to taking any of these nontraditional courses outside of Katy ISD.

**Undergraduate student:** a student at a college or university who has not yet received a bachelor's-level degree.

**Associate's degree:** An academic degree conferred by a two-year college after the prescribed course of study has been successfully completed.

**Bachelor's degree:** An academic degree awarded for completion of an undergraduate course of study or major that generally lasts for four years.

**Master's degree:** An academic degree conferred by a college or university upon those who complete at least one year of prescribed study beyond the bachelor's degree.

**EFC (Expected Family Contribution):** An annually calculated number assigned by the federal government according to FAFSA information calculating the amount you are expected to pay for a higher education.

**SAR (Student Award Report):** The SAR summarizes the data from your FAFSA and indicates your official Expected Family Contribution.
### Fall Semester
- Review graduation requirements and your current courses.
- Attend the KISD College & Career Night in October at the LMC.
- Attend the Katy ISD Financial Information Academy with your parents!
- Sign up for and take the PSAT. This test is the qualifying test for National Merit, National Hispanic Scholar, and National Achievement Scholarships.
- Begin keeping a resume of your awards, honors, and talents; jobs and community/volunteer work, including dates and times. Continually update this resume.
- Think of what you are looking for in a college (size, location, fields of study, facilities, cost, and social/cultural environments). Speak with college representatives who visit your high school.
- Start the application process now if you are interested in one of the military academies.

### Spring Semester
- Set up a filing system with folders for each college’s correspondence and printed materials.
- Make a list of colleges that interest you and research them online.
- Attend junior conference with your counselor.
- Discuss colleges you are interested in attending with your parents.
- Examine financial resources and gather financial aid information.
- Visit the college website to obtain catalogs and application forms.
- Check with the college of your choice regarding their policy. Many colleges award college credit for Advanced Placement exams and dual credit courses. Check college AP website for required AP scores for credit. Scores/courses awarded vary amongst universities.
- Register for and take applicable Advanced Placement exams.
- Consider Advanced Placement and dual credit courses for senior year during course selection.
- Determine which admission tests the college of your choice requires.
- Register to take the SAT and/or the ACT and take one or both during the spring semester of your junior year. You can retest in the fall of your senior year.
- Consult with your English teacher concerning ideas and suggestions for required essays.
- Stay involved with your extracurricular activities. Colleges look for consistency and depth.
- Ask about personal interviews at your favorite colleges. Arrange for early summer appointments. Make necessary travel arrangements.
- Verify that your high school course of study satisfies admission requirements of your college.

### Summer
- Earn and save money for college. Be prepared to pay for college applications, financial aid, and testing fees in the fall.
- Visit the campuses of your top five college choices. After each college interview, send a thank-you letter to the interviewer.
- Compose rough drafts of your college essays. Polish them and prepare final drafts. Carefully proofread your final essays and have the essays proofread by a trusted adult.
- Take some time to volunteer in the community.

Check with your counselor for more information about any of these topics.
## SENIOR TIMELINE

### FALL SEMESTER
- Meet with your counselor to review high school graduation requirements.
- Verify that your high school course of study satisfies admission requirements of your chosen college.
- Continue to take a full course load and concentrate on your grades. College admissions officials consider the rigor of senior year course work as an important factor.
- Continue to participate in extracurricular and volunteer activities. Demonstrate initiative, creativity, commitment and leadership.
- Create a personal checklist of registration deadlines, fees, etc. Review application instructions and due dates.
- Submit your application before the due date!
- Begin checking resource books, websites, and the counseling office for information on scholarships and grants. Contact your selected colleges about scholarships for which you may qualify.
- Check financial aid application requirements and deadlines.
- Go online in October to obtain your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) PIN so you can file online in early January.
- Attend the KISD Financial Information Academy. See schedule of sessions in the counselors’ office.
- Complete and submit a new recommendation request form for any recommendations you require. Be sure to give a minimum of two weeks’ time for the recommendations to be completed and mailed.
- Choose teachers to write recommendations who know you well and who will write positive letters about you. Letters from a coach, activity leader, or an adult outside of school, such as a volunteer work supervisor, are also valuable. Follow instructions on college application carefully.

### SPRING SEMESTER
- Complete and submit your FAFSA online as soon as possible on or after January 1, and before the March 15 priority deadline. FAFSA operates on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Register for Selective Service when you turn 18 to be eligible to receive federal financial aid. All males are required to register.
- Register and take applicable Advanced Placement Exams. Remember - See your counselor for information.
- Choose which college you will attend and notify the school. Send a deposit, and take care of your housing by May 1.
- Notify all colleges to which you were accepted but will not attend by May 1.
- Call, visit or write to an admissions officer to state your intention if you are deferred or “wait-listed” by a college and intend to enroll there. Ask them how you can strengthen your application.
Important Forms and Procedures

• Request a transcript to be sent from your campus registrar. (Transcript Request Form Needed)
• Research if your college uses the Common Application (www.commonapp.org), Apply Texas (applytexas.org), or their own specialized application. (Counselor Evaluation Forms or Letters of Rec may or may not be needed.)
• Obtain a copy of your transcript and GPA. Transcripts and GPAs are distributed during the spring of the junior year and the fall of the senior year.
• Build your resume with clubs, organizations and community service. Resumes may be requested or required for college admission or scholarship.
• Learn to carefully write, review and edit all essays. Essays have begun to count much more heavily in the admission process.

Recommendation Letters

• Choose teachers who know you, like you, and will write a strong recommendation.
• Make sure you give the individual plenty of time to write your letter (approximately two weeks).
• Give a copy of your resume or a copy of your personal fact sheet to the counselor and/or teacher.
• Send a thank you card to the counselor/teacher for their time.

College/Campus Visits

• Get an approved College Visit Form before you make college visits during a school day. Juniors and Seniors are allowed two days per year for an official college visit day. This day does not count toward exemptions.
• Arrange for your visit in advance. Contact the college/university for tour times.

Students with Disabilities

• Meet with a disability counselor at your desired college once you are a Senior. Take copies of ARD or 504 documentation to the meeting.
• Testing accommodations are provided by the College Board and ACT, the disability must be documented for the accommodations to be made. Contact SAT or ACT for more information.

ACT Test Administration
P O Box 4028
Iowa City, IA 52243
Phone: 319-337-1270  Fax: 319-339-3032
www.actstudent.org/regist/disabl

SAT Services for Students with Disabilities
P.O. Box 8060
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864-0060
Phone: 609-771-7137  Fax: 866-360-0114
TTY: 609-882-4118
email: ssd@info.collegeboard.org
2015-2016 test dates for PSAT, SAT, ACT, and AP exams

PSAT: Wednesday, October 14 at Katy ISD high schools The 2015 PSAT will be redesigned to mirror the changes to the upcoming new SAT. Please see www.collegeboard.org/redesigned PSAT for more information.

SAT scheduled test dates for 2015-2016:
Oct. 3       Nov. 7       Dec. 5
Jan. 23      Mar. 5       May 7       June 4

The newly redesigned SAT will be given beginning March 5, 2016. Go to www.collegeboard.org to view the changes to the test.

ACT scheduled test dates for 2015-2016:
Feb. 6       Apr. 9       June 11

SAT or ACT scores are required for admission to 4 year universities.
Begin testing no later than the spring semester of your junior year.
Please register at least two months prior to the test date.
Registration information is at www.collegeboard.org and www.actstudent.org
If registering for the ACT, choose the ACT Plus Writing option.

Free Test Prep Materials
ACT: www.actstudent.org/testprep
SAT: http://apps.collegeboard.com/qotd/question.do
www.khanacademy.org -- partnering with SAT with free test prep.

Other test prep materials can be found from these organizations for a fee:
Princeton Review 1-800-955-4600, 713-688-5500
Kaplan 1-800-KAP-TEST
Testmaster 281-276-7777

The Advanced Placement testing period for 2015-2016 is May 2 – May 13, 2015.
Please see your counselor for additional information.

THEA (Texas Higher Education Assessment) www.thea.nesinc.com. The THEA tests skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. Students may need to take this exam to meet Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standards prior to enrolling in courses for credit at a Texas public college or university. A student is exempt from one or more TSI requirements under the following conditions.

• An SAT Reasoning score of at least 1070 and a math score of at least 500 is exempt from the math requirement.
• An SAT Reasoning score of at least 1070 and a verbal score of at least 500 is exempt from the reading and writing requirements.
• An ACT composite score of at least 23 and a math score of at least 19 is exempt from the math requirement.
• An ACT composite score of at least 23 and an English score of at least 19 is exempt from the reading and writing requirements.

District Career Assessment Resources to help in college search:
Kuder Navigator, My College Quick Start (College Board).
### College Coursework While in High School
- Juniors and seniors have access to multiple Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Credit and Articulated courses in the areas of foreign language, English, history, math, science and career / technology.
- Testing for college credit may be part of the credit delivery process.
- Taking advantage of AP, Dual Credit, and Articulated coursework in high school can help save money on credit hours in college.

### Financial Aid
- Students who demonstrate financial need may be eligible for federal and/or state financial aid. Go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) for details.

### Scholarships
- Scholarship information is available in the counseling offices at all eight high schools in Katy ISD or on individual campus web pages. Check with your school's counseling office for additional information.

### NCAA Clearinghouse
- Students may register at any time. It is recommended that they register during their Junior year.
- Contact your campus’ athletic department or [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) for more information.
The Katy ISD website posts curriculum information, critical dates, and links for students and parents to check grades.
www.katyisd.org

College/Career Night on Wednesday, October 7 at the Merrell Center: College Reps, Seminars, Freebies
Financial Information Academy on a Saturday in early spring at the Education Support Complex (ESC). Exact date TBA.

Counselors’ Shelves: Ruggs, College Board “Book of Colleges” Index), Hartman’s The College Board Internet Guide for College-Bound Students, etc.

Other Great College Search Links:
www.collegeboard.com (and College Board’s My Road link),

Scholarship Search and Financial Aid:
Free Application for Federal Financial Aid
Fast Web
The Financial Aid Information Page
Hope Scholarship
Private Loan Comparisons
Sallie Mae Student Guide to Financial Aid
State of Texas Financial Aid
Texas Higher Ed Coordinating Board
Texas Guarantee Student Loan Corp.
Student Financial Aid Center
Fraud Checks
Need Based Aid
Other

www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.fastWeb.com
www.finaid.org
www2.ed.gov
www.salliemae.com
www.window.state.tx.us/scholars/aid
www.thecb.state.tx.us/
www.tgsb.org
www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/acsfafaid.html
www.fraud.org/
www.houstonaplus.org/preparingtodream
www.collegeanswer.com

Majors and Careers and other Helpful Sites:
Kuder Career Navigator
Career Magazine
Job Internships and Career Assessment
CareerNet
How to Choose a College
Study in the USA
Campus Tours
CollegeExpress
College Opportunities On-Line(COOL)

www.kuder.com/
www.careermag.com
www.careerbuilder.com
www.careers.org
www.myfuture.com
www.studyusa.com/
www.campustours.com
www.collegeexpress.com
www.ed.gov/ipeds/cool

Listing of internet address (URL) is NOT a Katy ISD endorsement of content. Hard Copy resources vary by high school.
### A. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admission Test Required</td>
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<td>Scores/ Transcript sent to college</td>
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<td>Required high school courses complete</td>
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<td>If no, courses deficient</td>
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### B. ADMISSION APPLICATION PROCESS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Submission</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Submitted</td>
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</table>

**Letter of recommendation requested from:**
- Recommendation Letter #1
- Recommendation Letter #2
- Recommendation Letter #3
- Recommendation Letter #4

### C. HOUSING APPLICATION PROCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Submission</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Submitted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deposit Paid</td>
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### D. FINANCIAL AID FORM

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<tr>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Submitted</td>
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### E. DATES TO EXPECT DECISIONS

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admissions</td>
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<td>Housing</td>
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<td>Financial Aid</td>
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### F. NOTIFIED COLLEGE OF DECISION

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<tr>
<th>Notification Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notification of acceptance or denial</td>
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<tr>
<td>COLLEGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baylor University</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Waco)</td>
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<td>Houston Baptist University</td>
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<td>(Houston)</td>
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<td>Lamar University</td>
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<td>(Beaumont)</td>
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<td>Prairie View A &amp; M University</td>
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<td>(Prairie View)</td>
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<td>Rice University</td>
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<td>(Houston)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Houston State University</td>
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<td>(Huntsville)</td>
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<td>Southern Methodist University</td>
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<td>(Dallas)</td>
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<td>Stephen F. Austin University</td>
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<td>(Nacogdoches)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tarleton College</td>
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<td>(Stephenville/ Fort Worth)</td>
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<td>Texas A &amp; M University</td>
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<td>University of North Texas</td>
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<td>University of Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Arlington)</td>
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<td>University of Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Dallas)</td>
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*Information is accurate as of July 1, 2014. All information is subject to change and is intended to be further researched.
†See individual college's websites and the Compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Aid Calendar at [www.everychanceeverytexan.org/about/scholars](http://www.everychanceeverytexan.org/about/scholars) for detailed information on college admissions criteria.
Katy Independent School District, the leader in educational excellence, together with family and community, provides unparalleled learning experiences designed to prepare and inspire each student to live an honorable, fulfilling life... to create the future.

Mr. Alton Frailey  
Superintendent

Dr. Christine Caskey  
Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Linda R. Menius  
Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services

Dr. Anita Horton  
Director, Counseling and Psychological Services

Christy Maeker  
Coordinator, Counseling and Psychological Services

Lisa McRae  
Specialist, Counseling and Psychological Services

Special thanks to Professional School Counselors for their collaboration on this resource:

Carol Bennetts  
Remona Clark  
Glynn Guynes  
Staci Mack  
Pam Zinnante

It is the policy of Katy ISD not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, religion, color, gender, age, or national origin in its educational programs and/or activities including career and technical programs, nor in its employment practices.

Provided by Counseling and Psychological Services, July 2015