



Sophomore Calendar

August

- Make sure you take classes that are as rigorous as you can handle. Take Advanced Placement (AP), and/or PreAP (Honors) classes. The level of difficulty of student coursework is one of the most important factors college admissions officers analyze when deciding on accepting applicants for admission.
- Plan to compete in contests, matches, and challenges. Earn honors and awards to build your student résumé (brag sheet). Consider participating in UIL Academic Teams and perhaps tryout for Academic Decathlon.
- Earn the best grades this year to have the highest possible GPA and class rank.
- Look for leadership roles in campus activities. Plan to be a leader in a few extracurricular activities this school year.
- Plan to take the TSI Assessment to determine college readiness. The TSI Assessment may be required for Dual Credit courses. For list of courses and requirements, see Midland College Dual credit website.

September

- Check on your four year plan for high school graduation and college admission. Take AP and PreAP courses. Check with your counselor on your progress and revise your plan as needed.
- Join groups and organizations that recognize high-achieving students. Joining organizations that require student members to earn excellent grades will look good on your college applications. See your counselor for instructions on membership. Begin looking at National Honor Society criteria.
- Take on leadership roles in some of your extracurricular activities. Leadership is one of the most valuable student qualifications sought by college admission officers.
- Prepare for the PSAT in October. Consider taking support classes to prepare for the PSAT with help from the MISD Partners for Excellence using Princeton Review. Sophomores who register will take the PSAT.
- Prepare to take the TSI Assessment to determine college readiness in October or November. The TSI Assessment may be required for Dual Credit courses. Free resources include: TSI Web Based Study Guide College Board & ACC TSI Test Prep (Austin CC)

October

- Take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). National Merit Qualifiers increase their odds greatly on getting into colleges with strict admission standards. Sophomores who register will take the PSAT.
- Attend College Forum in October at Midland College.
- Keep thinking about your interests and possible college majors.
- Develop teacher and upperclassmen relationships. Plan to use teachers and older high school students as mentors.
- Look for opportunities to take the TSI Assessment. The TSI Assessment may be required for Dual Credit courses. For list of courses and requirements, see Midland College Dual credit website.



November

- Research the types of colleges and universities you may wish to attend and discuss college costs with your parent(s).
- Learn about financial aid. Many scholarships are awarded based on your GPA, so do well in your coursework.
- Look for opportunities to take the TSI Assessment. The TSI Assessment may be required for Dual Credit courses. For list of courses and requirements, see Midland College Dual credit website.
- Once you complete the TSI Assessment, you have immediate access to your individual score report, which gives you details on your test results. Use the score report to understand your academic strengths and areas for improvement.
- Continue working on Texas Scholars Hours.

December

- Review your PSAT results. Identify areas of academic weakness. Work with your teachers, counselors, and parents to register for courses that will help improve your weak areas so you earn the highest scores possible on ACT and SAT tests you will take next year.
- Investigate summer programs for high school students. Start filling out application materials for programs you wish to attend.
- Do well on your final exams this semester. Earn the impressive grades needed for admission to college and to receive scholarships.
- Visit with high school friends who are home from college on winter break. Try to get an overall picture of what to expect from college life.

January

- Begin a student resume (brag sheet). Include all accomplishments and activities from fall semester.
- Study hard this spring semester to earn top grades so you can have the highest possible GPA and class rank.
- Continue to develop respectful, hard-working relationships with your teachers. Good relationships result in superior letters of recommendations when you apply for college admission and scholarships.
- Continue participating in extracurricular activities both inside and outside of school. Dedicate yourself to a few extracurricular activities and work toward leadership positions.
- Instruction now will prepare you for the STAAR test. Students must pass the STAAR test in order to graduate. The STAAR English II test is in April.

February

- Prepare to register for junior level courses. Make sure to follow your four-year plan for high school graduation and college preparation. Sign up for the most AP and Dual Credit courses that you can handle. See your counselor for registration instructions and deadlines.
- Prepare to take AP tests in May.



- Look for opportunities to take the [TSI Assessment](#) in February or March. The TSI Assessment may be required for Dual Credit courses.
- Once you complete the TSI Assessment, you have immediate access to your individual [score report](#), which gives you details on your test results. Use the score report to understand your academic strengths and areas for improvement.
- Visit with college representatives who come to your high school this spring. Read information and ask questions to see if their school may be a good fit for you.

March

- [Register for the SAT's](#). You should take Subject Tests as soon as possible after completing the relevant course in that subject.
- Begin thinking seriously about your career goals and interests. Researching career options may help you decide on a college major or post-secondary plans.
- Think about job shadowing. Contact professionals in your community that will permit you to accompany them for a day to observe what they do. Professionals can offer valuable insights about careers and what it takes to get a job in that field.
- Consider asking your family to visit campuses of colleges you would like to attend. Begin with local two year and four year universities.
- Prepare to add to your student resume (brag sheet) with summer jobs and college summer bridge experiences.
- Do well on the [STAAR/EOC English II](#) this month.
- Instruction now will prepare you for the STAAR/EOC tests. Students must pass the [STAAR/EOC tests](#) in order to graduate.

April

- High GPA's open college admission doors.
- Become a candidate and run for office in your elective and extracurricular classes. Look to become part of student council and other prominent organizations.
- Continue to research career options and consider possible college majors.
- If you're interested in attending a military academy after high school graduation, request information to learn about that academy and their admission requirements. Visit with [JROTC directors](#) to find out more information without obligations.

May

- All [AP tests](#) are this month.
 - Prepare to take SATs next month.
 - Do well on your final exams.
 - Take action to insure you will receive excellent recommendations from teachers, counselors and coaches. Say goodbye before you leave school for the summer and demonstrate some of the personal qualities college admission officers are seeking - be engaged and caring.
 - Update your brag sheet to include sophomore year activities and accomplishments.
 - If you want to play collegiate sports, take the steps necessary to increase your eligibility. Begin looking at the [NCAA Clearinghouse website](#).
 - Parents should plan to help your student with the college preparation and admission process over the next two years. Get informed and help with the important decisions ahead.



Midland Independent School District
Sophomore Calendar
What's Your Plan?



June-July

- Attend Dawg Days at MHS, Rebel Muster at LHS, or Summer Bridge at ECHS@MC. Get your parking, schedule, ID and "stuff" taken care of now.
- Take the SATs and/or the ACT during the summer.
- Attend summer bridge programs.
- Update your brag sheet with all sophomore activities, awards, honors etc.
- Continue working on Texas Scholars Hours

It is always good to be reminded, criminal convictions, poor credit, poor driving record and/or drug/alcohol use now could have a negative effect on career plans and/or college admission in the future.