

## COLLEGE PREPARATION

It is important to realize that normally students are accepted by colleges on the high school record/transcript that has been earned by the **END OF THE JUNIOR YEAR**. Highly selective colleges may require a portfolio process and determine admission notification after reviewing 7<sup>th</sup> semester grades. Therefore, the first three years are extremely important. Still of great importance is the senior year because it should confirm the first three year achievement pattern. In order to be well prepared for college, students should give careful attention to several areas.

### **COURSES**

Colleges are primarily interested in students who have taken courses in high school which prepare them to continue their education in college. A student at Hinsdale Central must take a minimum of five classes plus PE each semester. These classes should be the most challenging for each individual's appropriate ability levels.

### **GRADES**

It is very important to practice good study habits and earn the best grades possible beginning immediately in the freshmen year and continuing through senior year.

### **TESTS**

Most colleges will require results of the **ACT** or the **SAT Reasoning Test**. (Several highly selective colleges may require additional SAT Subject Tests (one-hour curriculum-specific tests). These tests cover verbal skills (reading, reasoning, word study, and composition), and mathematical skills. Although these tests are not usually taken until spring of the junior year, there is little advantage in "cramming" at that time. The best preparation is solid academic background. It is also helpful to be familiar with the types of questions asked. Each year Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors will take a version of the PSAT, which can be a great tool in preparing for the ACT or SAT. By comparing their answers with the correct answers, students can discover areas of weakness and work to improve these areas before taking the SAT and ACT. Generally, the testing schedule for students will be:

***PSAT 8/9: Spring of Freshman year***

***PSAT 10: Spring of Sophomore year***

***PSAT: October Junior Year***

***ACT: Spring of Junior Year*** (senior retakes if needed)

***SAT Reasoning Test: April of Junior Year- required to graduate*** (senior retakes if needed)

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

In addition to your academic pursuits, you are encouraged to become involved in one or several of the many sports, clubs, or activities at Hinsdale Central. High School is the time for you to grow academically, but also a time to learn about yourself. Participation in extra-curricular activities gives you the chance to make new friends, have fun, learn to make decisions, and experience both failure and success. Colleges look for students who have achieved to their potential and have taken advantage of both academics and extra-curricular opportunities. Breadth and depth of involvement can be helpful to a student in the college admission process. **BECOME INVOLVED WITH WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU.**