



College Prep Plan & Timeline

Here's an example of a real Blue Stars student who now attends Cornell University, studying Computer Science and Creative Writing. See how this student juggled a few different well-defined interests throughout high school. This student was very successful in admissions. Besides Cornell, he was admitted to Haverford, Vassar, Oberlin, Wesleyan, Williams, Amherst, Tufts, NYU, Carleton, and the University of Rochester. Hope this roadmap provides an inspiring model for your college planning path!

Freshman Year - Fall

Month	Task
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour/week online bio course • 1 hour/week math book • 1 hour every Saturday community service • Sunday: 5 hour robotics team meeting • 2 hour every week Coding Club tbd • Critical reading for 30 minutes, 3x/week • Work on time management of scheduling academic work while joining cross country (plan to do all 4 years)
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour/week math book • Read A Teen's Guide to Success • Sunday: 5 hour robotics team meeting • 1 hour every Saturday community service • 2 hour every week Coding Club tbd • October 1st: Save the Music Festival
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading 30 minutes a day • 1 hour/week math book • Finish Wide Awake, critical reading response sheet • Sunday: 4 hour robotic team meeting • 1 hour every Saturday community service • Coding Club weekly meetings • Research educational summer opportunities for coding and engineering
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading • 1 hour/week math book • Read and Finish A Teen's Guide to Success, critical reading response sheet • Sunday: 4 hour robotic team meeting • 1 hour every Saturday community service

Freshman Year - Spring

Month	Task
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to do critical reading response sheets on assigned fiction and nonfiction reading Reassess extracurricular and community service activities -- still of interest? Begin to pursue interest in creative writing: options in school and outside of school: options Develop an organized personal writing discipline
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin to explore summer program options/opportunities and select areas of interest: CS, engineering, math Attend meetings of Science and Engineering Club to assess interest Begin to choose pieces for National Piano Playing Auditions (the Guild)
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to practice for National Piano Playing Auditions (the Guild) Start disciplined writing practice: creative fiction story Choose courses for sophomore year in consultation with Dr. M -- reflect on interests, direction, workload, subsequent years in high school (which courses can be taken when)
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to practice for National Piano Playing Auditions (the Guild) Plan summer schedule around CS program
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to maintain grades while practicing for National Piano Playing Auditions (the Guild) Reassess membership in school band -- does this activity reflect potential future interests? Is time commitment worth maintaining in the face of newer interests?

Freshman/Sophomore Year - Summer

Month	Task
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Piano Playing Auditions (the Guild)
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend summer CS program Write up summer program summary to preserve experiences and observations for potential use in later college applications

Sophomore Year - Fall

Month	Task
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reassess time commitment to piano in the light of newer interests Establish academic and SMART goals for semester
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research organizations for limited, but consistent volunteer work; complete community engagement profile to begin work on finding opportunities
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin initial career exploration: math, engineering, CS Begin discussion of informational interviews, research into potential areas of career interest Assemble lists of family/other contacts for informational interviews
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin discussions of potential areas for summer programs Develop interest in creative writing through critical reading assignments and response sheets Begin exploration of additional areas of reading/writing interest
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review fall semester academic performance Review time management practices

Sophomore Year - Spring

Month	Task
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research summer writing and journalism programs • Start defining writing practice & develop schedule for publishing and competitions/begin work of preparing and sending out material • Set the foundation for keeping up academic excellence while maintaining schedule of extracurricular activities and volunteer work by coming up with a system for time management. • Begin tutoring in school tutorial center
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue writing practice after setting goals for development/practice with specific genres • Apply to summer summer writing and journalism programs • Begin submitting writing to local competitions and publications
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make decisions about summer programs after acceptances received
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and discuss college planning timeline: test prep/planning, course progression, researching majors
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish one new story

Sophomore/Junior Year - Summer

Month	Task
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research engineering profession to understand better where your interests are; can begin with this website called Engineering Your Future; explore at least 4 specific areas of engineering over next four months • Identify engineering, tech, and math competitions that might be of interest, create calendar • Begin ACT prep; PSAT prep free online • Begin auditing online Intro to Java course • Complete Spanish III online course • Begin Critical Reading, identify periodicals will follow regularly; identify books to read for summer both and school reading as assigned. Define a schedule for critical reading. • Create LinkedIn profile and resume
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue research of organization for limited but continued volunteer work • Revise writing practice plan/reflections as informed by Shared World; define short- and long-term writing goals: rest of summer, six months, year • Continue implementing publishing/competition plan • Continue engineering profession research; choose one engineering field to research online • Continue critical reading & summer reading for school as assigned • ACT prep • National Piano Playing Auditions (the Guild); • Planning to go to a 2-week creative writing camp in South Carolina (Shared Worlds Camp)

Junior Year - Fall

Month	Task
August	<p>Before school starts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Prep/augment with additional practice tests; PSAT prep • Continue implementing plan/schedule; revise writing practice plan to fit in with school schedule • Continue engineering profession research; choose one engineering field to research online • Complete any summer reading for school & continue with critical reading • Choose organization for limited but consistent volunteer work <p>After school starts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin discussing college options with Dr. M. • Begin or resume participation in extracurricular school-based activities, Speech & Debate, Engineering Club • Continue critical reading, one to two articles per week • Start thinking about school visits during February (15th-19th) and/or April (11th-15th) breaks • Use time management tools to schedule and manage range of commitments • Continue implementing writing practice and publication plan
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Prep 1-2 sessions; PSAT prep • Take ACT test date: Sept 12 • Keep up with volunteering and extracurricular commitments • Continue engineering profession research; choose one engineering field to research online • Research at least one college or university • Continue implementing writing practice and publication plan
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take PSAT • Start reviewing and researching summer programs & internships • Continue engineering profession research; choose one engineering field to research online • Keep up with volunteering and extracurricular commitments • Continue implementing writing practice and publication plan • Research at least one college or university • Continue critical reading
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize list of summer programs and internships • Continue implementing writing practice and publication plan • Continue critical reading • Breathe! Keep up momentum
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin summer program and internship applications and essays • Begin research hackathons for spring • Finish the semester strong • Reflect on fall semester (scheduling, time management, academics, volunteer work, how your interests and focus may be evolving) set goals for spring • Devise a plan for AP and SAT subject test prep for spring • Research at least one college or university • Continue critical reading (over break read at least one full-length, high-quality nonfiction book) • Continue implementing writing practice and publication plan • Writing block 1: Narrator voice; write two pieces emulating two different distinct voices

Junior Year - Spring

Month	Task
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working on summer program applications or other summer plans, specific deadlines • AP exam prep (diagnostics, study plans, tutoring as needed); AP Lang & Comp, AP Physics II, AP CS • SAT 2 prep (practice tests, study plan, and review); identify 2 tests for May/June (Math 2 and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physics); 1-2 tests for fall (Lit and one other) Resume volunteer and extracurricular work Continue to implement writing practice and publishing plan Research at least one college or university (shoot for 5 during spring semester) Continue with critical reading Math Teaching Job (Mathnasium) Writing block 2: Backwards story; outline a logical journey that completes both a story plot-wise backwards
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on summer program applications and other summer plans, deadlines TBD Continue with AP exam prep (Lang & Comp, Physics II, and CS) Continue with SAT 2 prep (Math 2; Physics; Lit) Continue volunteer and extracurricular work Continue to implement writing and publishing plan Continue with critical reading Research at least one college or university Possible school visit during winter break (Feb 15th-19th) Writing block 3: Character Creation/Development; try to create a truly believable villain
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing block 4: Descriptions- scenery, characters, etc.; write a piece about a place, without mentioning the name or making it too obvious, and see if people can guess it Writing block 5: Structures used to convey a message; write one piece using a series of vignettes to convey a message Submit summer program applications Continue with AP exam prep Continue with SAT 2 prep Stay involved in extracurricular and volunteer activities Continue critical reading
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit summer program applications TBD Register for May or June SAT 2 (Math 2; Physics) Keep up momentum! Maintain involvement in extracurricular activities, volunteering, and implementing writing and publishing plan Possible school visit(s) during spring break (April 11th-15th)
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take AP exam (Physics II May 4; CS May 3; Lang & Comp May 11) Continue critical reading SAT 2 Prep

Junior/Senior Year - Summer

Month	Task
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin brainstorming for college essays with essay editor Complete research of college and universities, compile school list Plan school visits, research and gather applications for fly-in programs Attend summer program(s) OR begin work on independent project (intensify writing plan) Take SAT 2 (Physics) - June 4th Take SAT 2 (Math 2) - June 4th SAT 2 prep (Lit and other subject) Continue critical reading (read 2-3 full-length, high-quality, nonfiction books)
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin drafting college essays Attend summer program(s)/internships OR continue work on independent project Continue SAT 2 prep

Senior Year - Fall

Month	Task
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue drafting college essays; Common App, strong draft completed by second week in Aug • Resume extracurricular activities and volunteer work • Plan for founding Creative Writing Club at school
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin work on college applications, especially if apply EA or ED • Fill out and complete your Common App • Register for October or November SAT 2 (Lit and other subjects) or retake of ACT • Continue drafting college essays
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit any EA or ED applications (most deadlines are Nov 1) • Take SAT 2 (Lit) • Continue drafting college essays
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin writing supplemental college essays • Take SAT 2 (Math)
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit college applications • Devise a plan for AP exam in spring semester

Senior Year - Spring

Month	Task
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep up your grades, keep up community and extracurricular work. • AP exams (diagnostics, study plans, tutoring as needed)
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above • Write "update letter" to colleges with latest progress and achievements
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep up momentum
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive notifications from colleges on or before April 1st
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make your final college decision and notify colleges of your intent by May 1st • Take AP exams

Academic Schedule

SUBJECT	11th GRADE	12th GRADE
Social Studies	U.S. History	AP Econ/AP U.S. Gov
English	AP English Lang/Composition	AP English Lit & Comp
Math	H Trig/Math Analysis	AP Calculus BC
Science	AP Physics II	AP Physics C
World Languages		
Electives, math	AP Computer Science	AP Statistics
Electives, math	Principles of Engineering	Engineering-3
	Spanish 111 (online summer)	
	Tutoring (spring)	