

COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR

JUNIOR YEAR

August/September

♦ Review your progress on meeting graduation, college admission, and NCAA Clearinghouse and Millennium Scholarship requirements. Review your transcript with your counselor to make sure your classes are appropriate for your high school and future goals.

♦ Sign up for the **PSAT (fee required)** with the bookkeeper. The PSAT (taken in the junior year) is the qualifying exam for entry in the National Merit Scholarship Program, National Scholarship Service and National Hispanic Scholar Recognition Program.

♦ Continue researching all college and career exploration resources. Make a list and keep a file of colleges that meet your most important criteria (size, location, majors, housing, cost, academic rigor, etc.) and weigh each factor according to their importance to you.

♦ Collect info on each college including application process, admission requirements, tuition/fees, room and board costs, student activities, course offerings and financial aid.

October/November

♦ Continue working hard in your classes and get good grades!

♦ Attend the district college fair to assist in the college selection process. Talk to college representatives, adults and college students about their college experiences for tips and advice. Begin narrowing down your college choices.

♦ Keep parents informed on colleges you are considering- examine financial resources and gather information about financial aid. Discuss with your parent(s) financial aid options!

♦ If interested in a military academy, talk to your counselor about starting the application process now. See the local academy representative as there are several early deadlines plus the requirement of congressional recommendations.

December/January

♦ Review your PSAT scores with your counselor. Determine areas to improve upon for the SAT and ACT. Remember: SAT/ACT scores are typically used for admission purposes, scholarship applications, NCAA initial eligibility, and placement in English and Math classes at college.

♦ Register for spring (May/June) SAT/ACT and Subject exams (if required) at www.collegeboard.org and www.actstudent.org. Try both exams! Almost all colleges will accept your best score(s) on either exam. *Remember: You cannot take the SAT and the Subject Exam(s) on the same test date!* Plan accordingly.

♦ Start preparing for SAT/ACT exams. Free study aids are available online at the SAT and ACT websites, Khan Academy, and at the Library/College and Career Center.

♦ Review your transcript with your counselor; refine your college list and review those you are interested in and your chances of acceptance.

February/March

♦ If possible, schedule campus visits now for the spring term when colleges are still in session

♦ Plan for challenging and rigorous courses your senior year (Honors/AP). Do not "take a break"-- plan on taking a full schedule your senior year. Colleges look for rigor all 4 years of high school!

♦ Continue to review your progress towards meeting NCAA eligibility requirements (www.eligibilitycenter.org) for college athletics. Plan your senior year courses accordingly!

♦ Continue researching college costs and the process of applying for financial aid. Attend a college financial aid information session.

♦ Investigate scholarship opportunities- utilize online scholarship search resources and websites (see your counselor/Career Center for details)

♦ Research interesting and challenging summer courses, jobs, and activities (check for summer programs on college campuses)

April/May

♦ Narrow college choices to five to eight schools

♦ Take the SAT/ACT and Subject exams (if applicable)

♦ Take AP exams in May

♦ Research volunteer, employment and/or internship opportunities this summer to enhance your college application. Stay involved with extracurricular activities-- colleges look for consistency and depth in activities (quality vs. quantity).

♦ Arrange college visits and interviews for summer. Arrange tours, meet with admission counselors and possibly stay overnight in a dorm! Review college websites for admission requirements and application deadlines.

♦ Review your transcript: Make sure everything is correct and no errors!

Summer

♦ Review and register for Fall SAT/ACT test dates. Students typically improve their scores on the second attempt.

♦ If planning on Division I, II, or III college athletics: Register with the NCAA online at: www.eligibilitycenter.org. Early registration helps student-athletes avoid pitfalls that could delay your academic or amateur certification.

♦ Get involved in an internship or job related to your career interests and/or volunteer and community service activities

♦ Visit the campuses of your top college choices. Keep your college options open and consider all possibilities. In addition to your "reach" and "mid-range" schools, keep some "safety" schools on your list.

♦ Compose rough drafts of your college essays (if required). Review with a teacher and prepare final drafts. Proofread, proofread, proofread!

♦ Consider a summer job and save your money to help pay for college costs. Develop a financial aid application plan (include list of aid sources, requirements for applications, and timetable to meet filing deadlines)