

# Junior Year Checklist



## Fall

- Start studying for the SAT/ACT, SAT Subject Tests and AP exams as soon as the school year begins
- Take the PSAT
- Stay on track with your classes and grades
- Make a list of potential colleges you would like to attend
- Make sure your resume is up-to-date and continue updating it throughout the year
- Create a document of any awards and involvements to use in the future
- Evaluate education options: vocational-technical school, career college, or two-year or four-year college, military college
- Discuss careers and which majors can lead there
- Gather college information: Attend college fairs, college nights and speak to representatives from colleges that attend your high school
- Begin planning campus visits
- Mark the dates on a calendar for upcoming tests: SAT, ACT, and AP exams
- Continue involvement in extracurricular and volunteer activities and seek leadership roles
- Continue building relationships with your teachers as 11th grade teachers are the ones that you will most likely ask for letters of recommendation

## Winter

- Stay involved with extracurricular activities
- Study for the ACT/SAT
- Getting involved: Holidays and winter break are great times to volunteer
- Organize your college information

- Start narrowing down your college choices: if you haven't already start planning some college visits
- Note merit scholarship requirements for these colleges
- Continue discussing careers and corresponding majors
- Shadow career fields
- Prepare for standardized tests: research the test requirements of the colleges you wish to attend (SAT, ACT, or SAT Subject Tests) and register for the tests
- Learn more about financial aid
- Apply for scholarships: find scholarships with little competition but can fund a free ride
- Start planning for a productive summer: Check on internship deadlines

## **Spring**

- Getting involved: Some schools allow new members to join after winter break
- Prepare your class schedule for senior year: stick with a schedule that challenges you versus all easy classes/meet with your school counselor to discuss your options
- Consider ways to earn college credit via Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment courses
- Continue your scholarship search and apply: find scholarships with little competition BUT will fund a free ride
- Contact your letter of recommendation writers: employer, coach, activity leader, or adult who knows you well outside of school
- Check for local scholarships in the guidance office before school year ends
- Apply for a summer internship or job
- Set up appointments at your top college choices including a personal interview, tour of the campus and meet with a professor/coach

## Summer

- Visit Colleges: Visit the top 5 campuses on your list
- Work a summer job to gain experience, build a resume, and save money for college
- Maximize summer to build competitiveness
- Talk to others about their experience in college especially if the student is attending a college on your list
- Organize your financial aid information
- Start working on your college application essays: Have a teacher read and discuss the essays with you
- Continue to pursue scholarship opportunities and apply!
- Letters of Recommendation: Request these letters with at least a 2-week notice
- Develop a strong personal statement for scholarships
- Retake the SAT/ACT to improve score
- Finalize personal statement based on junior year
- Write down all deadlines for FAFSA, admissions applications and scholarships (including state-based and merit-based scholarships)