

Junior Year

August

- Start your year off right by talking with your school counselor about the year ahead. Be sure to ask about test dates for the PSAT/NMSQT, ACT, and SAT. You'll need to register up to six weeks ahead of time.
- Start investigating sources for financial aid. Take note of scholarship deadlines and plan accordingly.
- Develop a résumé—a record of your accomplishments, activities, and work experiences. This will be an important part of your college application.
- If you don't participate in many activities outside of class, now is the time to sign up. Consider clubs at schools, team sports, or even an after school job.

September/October

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT. Even if you took the PSAT10 during your sophomore year, taking the PSAT/NMSQT this year will count towards National Merit Scholar consideration and will give you a better predictor for the SAT you take later this year or next.
- Sign up for ACT or SAT prep courses or use free test preparation resources online. If you can't find the best websites, ask your counselor. You will want to take the test at least once in the spring and again next fall during your senior year.

November

- Sign up for the ACT and SAT, if you haven't already.

December

- PSAT/NMSQT test results should be coming in. Review the results to learn more about your strengths and weaknesses and discuss them with your parents and counselor. Connect your College Board and Khan Academy accounts to get free, personalized practice for the SAT.
- Use your PSAT/NMSQT score report to access free personalized feedback, practice and college planning based on your PSAT/NMSQT results.

January/February

- Meet with your school counselor again to develop your senior schedule. Ask how you can improve your college preparation.
- Talk to a counselor or teacher about registering for AP courses during your senior year.
- Register for a spring offering of the SAT and/or ACT.
- Think about registering for SAT Subject Tests this spring. The final registration deadline for taking the test this academic year will be in May.

March/April

- Begin taking a more serious look at colleges and universities you are interested in attending. Gather information about academics, financial aid, and campus life. Go to college fairs and open houses and learn as much as you can from the internet about schools so you can make the best decision possible.
- Plan college visits. Your spring break can be a good time because you can observe a campus when classes are going on. Even if they aren't campuses that you think you would attend, it is important to get exposure to college campuses and the college experience.
- Think about lining up a summer job, internship, or co-op.
- If you are in AP courses, get ready for the AP exams next month.
- Develop a preliminary list of colleges that interest you. Contact them to request a viewbook and additional information.
- Take a look at some college applications and consider all of the different pieces of information you will need to compile.

May

- AP Examinations are given in high schools nationally this month. Make sure you are signed up and know the dates and times for your exams.
- Make a list of teachers, counselors, employers, and other adults who you might ask to write letters of recommendation for your college applications.