

Junior Year Checklist

- _____ **College Prep Courses.** Your course schedule should reflect all necessary college preparatory classes. Be sure to take as challenging a course schedule as you can handle, including any AP and honors classes, when available and appropriate.
- _____ **Test time!** Find out the testing dates for the school year. Find out what test(s) are required for the college(s) you are considering. Register for and take the SAT or ACT at least one time your Junior year. Utilize free test preparation resources available online and elsewhere. The SAT and ACT web sites offer free practice tests as do web sites that focus specifically on college entrance exam test preparation, including www.number2.com and www.march2success.com.
- _____ **National Merit Scholarship Qualification.** Register in early fall for the October PSAT. This test will serve as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying exam and is a good practice for the SAT.
- _____ **Document Deadlines for your Senior year.** Research state and federal financial aid programs. Look for scholarship opportunities. Make a timeline for application deadlines for your senior year. Explore free scholarship search websites, such as www.asla.info.
- _____ **Get ready to apply for scholarships.** In the spring, consider having a professional photo made to send with scholarship applications. Many scholarships will require your photo. Write an early draft essay about your college and career goals to submit with scholarships. Start exploring scholarship searches. Some private scholarships begin accepting applications at the end of your Junior year.
- _____ **Future College Athlete?** Athlete's planning to play sports at a Division I or II must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center beginning in the summer following your junior year.
- _____ **College Decisions.** Investigate potential colleges of interest. Use catalogs, publications, web sites, college fairs and online college campus tours to gather more information.
- _____ **AP Testing.** In the spring, register for and complete AP tests for any AP courses you are currently taking in high school.
- _____ **Visit college campuses.** While summer is often a convenient time for families to schedule campus visits, it is not always the best time to see a school. Try to visit a college when classes are in session and students are on the campus. That way, you can get a feel for campus life, meet professors and staff, attend a class, and eat a meal on campus.
- _____ **How much does college cost?** Start reviewing tuition, fee, and housing costs to get an idea of the real cost of college.
- _____ **Forecast aid eligibility.** Estimate Your Aid (FAFSA4caster) at www.studentaid.gov to start estimating potential financial aid eligibility. Income earned in 2020 will be used for your FAFSA when you begin college in 2022.
- _____ **Save for college.** Remember the federal government assumes every family will contribute something toward the cost of attending college. Although your college years may not be far off, remember anything you and your family puts away now will be welcomed assistance when the time comes.

Did you know? Your spring and summer earnings during and following the junior year can affect financial aid for your 2022-2023 FAFSA. Complete the Estimate Your Aid (FAFSA4caster) at www.studentaid.gov.