

JUNIOR PLANNING TIMELINE

JUNE-AUGUST-

- Continue to be academically diligent in the fall.
- Keep in mind that colleges look for the following:
 - Challenging coursework
 - A strong GPA- A transcript showing courses and GPA from 9th-11th grade is what is sent with the college applications. This year's grades are very important.
 - Involvement in extracurricular activities
- Begin to create a résumé. Keep a list of extracurricular activities you participate in, i.e. sports, clubs, special classes, camps, religious activities, community service, etc., during high school. This will make it easier to fill out college and scholarship applications.
- Start preparing for the SAT and/or ACT by taking prep courses, using computer software and taking practice tests.
- Decide how and when you are going to visit colleges.

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER-

- Talk to friends, parents, and faculty members about colleges and careers.
- Begin to build a preliminary list of potential colleges. Plan to apply to at least 3-5 schools.
- Write, email or use the telephone to request admission literature and financial aid. Most colleges/universities have a link on their website to access this information.
- The PSAT that juniors will take in October is used to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship program.
- In December, you should receive the results of your PSAT. Read your score report. See Mrs. Youngblood if you need help in the interpretation of the scores.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY-

- Schedule college visits during spring break if interested in doing so.
- Review college literature you are receiving. It may be helpful to make files for each of the schools you are interested in.
- Register to take SAT/ACT again if interested.

MARCH-MAY-

- Narrow down your college list. Look carefully at admission requirements. Are your choices realistic? If not, you may want to eliminate that choice from your list.
- Schedule a visit to a campus or a group of campuses if convenient and appropriate, especially during Spring Break or beginning of summer. A campus visit is the best way to evaluate whether a school is right for you.
- Review the essay questions on the college applications and choose a topic that can be used for several applications. Develop an outline for your topic. After the paper is written, have two to three people proof your essay.

JUNE-AUGUST-

- Visit colleges, take tours (some schools have virtual tours online), and ask questions of friends, family, church members, etc., who might have advice about a school that you are interested in.
- Continue to refine college list and request applications. Remember, you can find most applications online.

