

# JUNIORS

- ❑ Maintaining our grades this year is important, but at the same time you need to make sure that you're challenging yourself academically.
- ❑ Now is the time to really focus in on your career and college research. Share what you find with your family! You'll be working a lot together over the next few years.
- ❑ Keep talking to your school counselors, teachers, and family about your plans for after high school!
- ❑ Find out about and enroll in AP classes or even dual enrollment courses for your junior and senior year.
- ❑ Find out about the AP, PSAT, SAT, and ACT Test schedules. Talk to your school counselor about how these tests can help you and which one might be the best fit.
- ❑ Review your academic record and discuss ways to improve with your counselor. Narrow your list of colleges to include a few with requirements at your current GPA, some above, and at least one with requirements below.
- ❑ Start looking at the admissions requirements for the colleges you're interested in! Be sure to keep track of any additional requirements on top of GPA and test scores. Start a file for college catalogs and other admissions information. You can always stop by the counseling office or the college and career center for this information as well!
- ❑ In September register for the PSAT that is offered in October. It is great practice and the score will count towards the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- ❑ Keep an eye out for college nights at schools you might want to attend. Also be sure to speak to admissions reps when they are on campus.
- ❑ Towards the end of your junior year (April & May) begin conversations with your teachers and ask them to write letters of recommendation for you. Think about what you would like to include in these and politely ask your teachers if they can help.
- ❑ Over the summer you should consider a part-time job, volunteer work, or an internship. You can also consider picking up a summer class or two.
- ❑ Between junior and senior years continue to work on your application essays and decide if you're going to apply to any colleges using early decision or early action. Be sure to review the application procedures for the colleges you plan to apply to.

## Check this out:

Explore careers and their earning potential in the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>.

## Don't Forget:

Community involvement looks great on college applications! Ask your counselor about ways that you can be more involved.

## One last thing:

As you explore different colleges, be sure to schedule tours of the school grounds so that you are able to experience each school in person.

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## GETTING READY FOR COLLEGE

Now that you've narrowed down the list of colleges that you're interested in, it is important to begin looking into the application process at the schools in which you plan to apply. It is important to keep in mind that each school may have different requirements and you'll need to make sure you meet each of those.

Here are a few websites that may assist you in finding a career and college that is right for you.

- <https://www.cfnc.org>
- <https://www.onetonline.org>
- <http://www.mynextmove.org>
- <http://www.careeronestop.org>
- <https://www.nshscounseling.weebly.com>

## ACT/ SAT

Go ahead and schedule to take the SAT, the ACT, or both. The good thing about these exams is that if you start early, you can take them more than once and YOU get to decide which test may be the best fit for you. However, it is important that you go ahead and schedule to take an exam so that you can begin to prepare for success.

For more information about how you can sign up to take the exam please visit:

- <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>
- <http://www.act.org>

## SCHEDULING FOR SENIOR YEAR

When preparing for your senior year of high school it is important that you challenge yourself. Colleges will be paying close attention to the classes you sign up for during your last year of high school as they are considering how successfully you will transition into your freshman year of college. It might be a good idea to speak with your school counselor about honors, AP, or college courses and the benefits that these may have during your senior year of high school. If your schedule permits, remember to stay involved in school and community activities. For more information visit:

- <https://www.cfnc.org/plan-your-future/>

## STUDY TIPS

Maintaining your grades during your 11<sup>th</sup> grade year is key as colleges focus a lot of attention on how successful you are this year. Here are a few study tips that may help you to be successful during this crucial time.

- Take breaks
- Actively study
- Manage your time
- Know what you need to study
- Choose your study environment wisely

For more specific information about study techniques and how they can be helpful to you, please visit: [www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org) and enter "study techniques" in the search box.



## SAVING FOR COLLEGE

Have you considered how you will fund your college education? There are a few different ways to pay for college, these include savings, scholarships, grants, loans, or other forms of financial aid. Remember, it is wise to plan ahead!

Here are a few websites that may help you begin the planning process for paying for college:

- <https://fafsa.ed.gov>
- <https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/>
- <https://www.cfnc.org/save-for-college/>