



Fall Quarterly Update

For 2019-2020 Juniors

Making School Count

- **Check your 4-Year Plan.** Junior year is important academically in your preparation for college. Here is a list of [high school classes colleges look for](#). If you have questions about whether you are taking the right classes for your college aspirations, check with your counselor – he/she can help make sure that your curriculum is keeping you on track for where you want to go!
- **Showcase your skills.** Colleges want to know that you'll be a positive addition to their classrooms and community, and that you'll thrive not only in college but beyond. Here are [ten key skills](#) that show you have what it takes to succeed; consider how you can strengthen some of these skills this year so that you can emphasize them in your applications next year.

Looking Ahead to College

- **PSAT/NMSQT.** The [Preliminary SAT \(PSAT\) and National Merit Qualifying Scholarship Test \(NMSQT\)](#) will be offered at most area schools on Wednesday, October 16 or on the following Saturday, October 19. Juniors who score in the top ~1% will be considered for [National Merit Scholarships](#).
- **Create a college admissions test plan.** College admission test scores (SAT or ACT) are an essential feature of your admissions package for almost every 4-year college. Most students take their first test during spring of their junior year, with an opportunity to retest the following fall. While important, these tests needn't be daunting. Deciding which tests you will take, when you will take them, what score you are targeting, and how you will prepare will go a long way towards making these tests work best for you. Learn more [about college admissions tests here](#).
- **SAT or ACT?** Almost all colleges will accept either the SAT or ACT, but the tests differ in important ways. Now's a good time to decide which test you will focus your preparation time on. To help you out, Princeton Review offers this [comparison of the ACT and SAT](#).
- **2018-2019 SAT and ACT Test Schedule.** Check the [SAT test dates](#) and the [ACT test dates](#) for test-taking options during your spring semester this year.

- **Call Sage College Prep Services for professional tutoring! Sage offers prep classes for both the SAT and the ACT.** We are already enrolling students for our SAT Prep Course for the March 14, 2020 SAT. [Visit the Sage website](#) for more details.

Careers & Majors

- **Explore internships.** Real-world experiences offered by internships can boost students' college and career success, as well as help with college admissions. Now is a good time to think about whether and how you want to fit an internship into your high school plan. Check out these [5 steps to find an internship during high school](#). Most high school career centers offer internship opportunities, information and guidance.

Finding Colleges for You

- **Make a list of 10 interesting colleges.** Set a goal of finding ten colleges you might like to attend, and learn a little about each one. Look up the profile of their most recently admitted class (size, GPA, test scores, diversity), learn what the college costs and what students pay, and read about campus and community life. The College Board's [College Search tool](#) will help you get started.
- **Attend a college fair.** College fairs are an efficient way to explore colleges and talk informally with admissions representatives. [National College Fairs in the Pacific Northwest](#) are offered in late October and early November this year (scroll down to find Fall college fairs in Washington and Oregon). The [Portland National College Fair](#) will be held October 27-28, [Seattle's National College Fair](#) will be held on November 1-2, and [Spokane's National College Fair](#) will be held November 5. All are free to the public.
- **Pacific Northwest College Fair.** The Pacific Northwest College Fair featuring regional colleges along with military and other post-secondary training options will be in high schools across the Tri-Cities during the week of **October 21-26** (see our calendar for a list of school fairs).

Applying to College

- **Social media and admissions.** More colleges and students are [factoring social media into the application process](#). While students' online presence plays at best only a peripheral role in admissions relative to traditional considerations (academics, activities, essays and recommendations), students should understand that their digital trail can help as well as hurt their chances of admission. Check out Kaplan's [complete guide to social media and admissions](#).

Paying for College

- **Get the facts about paying for college.** Learn the basics about paying for college so you and your family can get the most money for college. Here are [7 Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid](#) from the College Board.
- **Find out why college may cost less than you think.** Most students don't pay the full tuition price that colleges publish. With financial aid, the actual cost (or net price) is usually less. Learn how to [focus on net price, not sticker price](#).
- **The college cost conversation.** If you haven't raised the subject yet, it's not too soon to have a family conversation about the cost of and budget for college – Consumer Reports offers [10 key questions every family should discuss](#) when it comes to paying for college.

Mark Your Calendar!

- **October 16 or October 19, 2019 – PSAT/NMSQT.**
- **October 16, 2019, 6:00pm – Finding your perfect college.** *Sage College Prep Services* is partnering with Gesa Credit Union to present the second of a 4-part seminar series on college planning. The next two seminars will be on **November 6** (Assembling a Successful College Application) and **December 4** (Paying for College). The seminars are free and open to the community, but space is limited – [use this link to register](#), scroll to the Sage seminar, and click the registration button to sign up.
- **October 22-26, 2019 Northwest Region College & Career Expo.** Representatives from multiple colleges, the military, and other post-secondary careers will be available for informal conversations with students and families at high schools throughout the Tri-Cities on this schedule: Chiawana (10/21 8am-2pm and 6-8pm), Kennewick (10/22 7:30am-2:30pm), Richland (10/22, 6-8pm), Southridge (10/23 in the morning), Hanford (10/23, 6-8pm), Kamiakin (10/24,

8am-1:30pm), Pasco (10/24, 5-7pm), and Delta (10/25 in the morning), culminating in a final College Fair on Saturday, October 26, 12-3pm at Chiawana.

- **October 27-28, 2019 – Portland National College Fair.** [Portland's National College Fair](#) offers a free weekend option for those who can't attend the fair in Spokane on November 5. Click the link to find the list of colleges attending.
- **October 30, 2019, 6-8pm – Planning for College, Part 1.** Cathy McMeeken, McMeeken College Consulting, will present livestream on "7 Top Myths in College Admission" and Rich Quadrel, Sage College Prep Services, will present on "Six Key Strategies to Achieve Your Best Score on the SAT or ACT." The session is sponsored by Angie Furubotten-LaRosee, Avea Financial Planning, in partnership with Kennewick Community Education, and will be held at Kamiakin High School, Room 440. [Register here](#).
- **November 1, 2019 – End of 1st Quarter for most area schools.** This is a good time for students to check their grades, and consider whether they need to make changes in order to meet their GPA targets.
- **November 1-2, 2019 – Seattle National College Fair.** [Seattle's National College Fair](#) offers another free weekend option.
- **November 5, 2019 – Spokane National College Fair.** The [Spokane National College Fair](#) is close, free, and open to the public!
- **November 6, 2019, 6-8pm – Planning for College, Part 2.** Barak Rosenbloom, Essay Mentors, will present livestream on "Discover 7 Secrets for a Great College Essay" and Rich Quadrel, Sage College Prep Services, will present on "Paying for College: 5 Steps to Take Control." The session is sponsored by Angie Furubotten-LaRosee, Avea Financial Planning, in partnership with Kennewick Community Education, and will be held at Kamiakin High School, Room 440. [Register here](#).



509.375.5555

SageCPS.com

If you receive this Quarterly Update in hardcopy and would like to subscribe, send an email to DoctorQ@SageCPS.com and we'll add you to the distribution list.