

# York PTSA-Academic Committee

## **Monthly Checklist**

### *A Grade-by-Grade Guide for York Students & Parents*

***NOTE: Many activities and events listed here may be canceled or changed due the coronavirus pandemic. Please check the York website or contact staff for the most up-to-date information.***

Information presented is offered by parents who've "been there."

This is not an official D205 document and cannot substitute for district policy or procedure.

Dates and events are subject to change.

Always check the York website or contact staff for the most up-to-date information.

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# FRESHMAN YEAR

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## AUGUST

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- Introduce yourself to your counselor.
  - Bring questions/conflicts early to teachers.
  - All freshmen take Freshmen Orientation and Guidance as part of their lunch period.
  - Freshmen will take Health in place of PE either this semester or next.
  - Attend York Open House. Pick up a copy of the PTSA-Academic Committee's "[Making the Most of York](#)" guidebook and *read it!*
  - Start an activity resume. Continue to add to it throughout high school. This will come in handy later for work and college applications.
  - Check out our wonderful [York parent organizations](#) and get involved!
  - Create a 4-year course plan (The PTSA-Academic Committee offers a sample planning spreadsheet on the [Academic Committee website](#)). Consult the [course offerings website](#) for special considerations (e.g. NCAA required courses for college athletes). Be sure to include all required courses in the plan. This plan will also come in handy when determining timing for college entrance and AP exams.
  - Login to [PowerSchool](#) to sign up for daily school activity announcements.
  - Check out the [Athletics website](#) for schedules and information on York sports.
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## SEPTEMBER

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- Check out [clubs](#) and extracurricular activities.
  - All year: Get involved in service and volunteering! If you are interested in applying to [National Honor Society](#) as a junior, document each contribution with a letter and/or signature from the sponsor organization.
  - Join the fun of Homecoming Week!
  - Attend the Collage Concert which features all York bands, orchestras, choirs and dance groups!
  - If you do not have a social security number, obtain one. It is often required for applications, testing, scholarships and other opportunities.
  - Visit the Learning Commons and Math Lab to see where to get help when you need it.
  - If applicable, take [AAPPL/STAMP tests to earn the Seal of Biliteracy](#) on your diploma. These tests are offered to all students, every year in September and January.
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## OCTOBER

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- All freshmen and sophomores attend an event to help prepare them for course selections.
  - Parent-teacher conferences.
  - End of first quarter is coming up. Check in with teachers to get help if needed.
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## NOVEMBER

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- Use your 4-year course plan to begin planning classes for next year (and for summer school if interested). The course selection process happens late November through Winter Break. Be sure to think about balance, electives, and classes in new areas to explore emerging interests.
  - If you haven't done so yet, check out the [Performing Arts calendar](#) for band, orchestra, choir, dance, and drama performances!
  - Review your 4-year course plan with your counselor.
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## DECEMBER

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- Final exams are just before winter break. Finals represent 20% of your grade.
  - Check out the Winter Art Show!
  - Already thinking about post-high school plans? Check out the CCRC website for information on [college planning, gap years, military service, and school-to-work options](#). Talk with your counselor!
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## FRESHMAN YEAR CONTINUED...

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### JANUARY

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- Fine Arts Week and the annual Talent Show usually happen in late February, early March. Start putting an act together!
  - Register for [summer school](#) if it's in your plan. It is not required, but can create room for a graduation requirement, elective or study hall.
  - If applicable, take [AAPPL/STAMP tests to earn the Seal of Biliteracy](#) on your diploma. These tests are offered to all students, every year in September and January.
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### FEBRUARY

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- The American Mathematics Competition (AMC) takes place in late January/early February. Refer to the chapter on Testing in the "[Making the Most of York](#)" parent guide on the Academic Committee website.
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### MARCH

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- Register for AP tests if appropriate. York will distribute registration information.
  - All non-AP Biology students take the Illinois Science Assessment sometime in the spring.
  - Register for SAT Subject Tests if appropriate. These tests are required only by selective colleges, but you might decide to take one while the material is fresh in your mind (e.g. Take the Biology Subject Test after completing Biology Honors).
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### APRIL

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- Take the York-administered PSAT-8/9. Refer to the chapter on testing in the "[Making the Most of York](#)" parent guide on the Academic Committee website. Students don't need to study – just get a good night's sleep!
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### MAY

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- Review course requests in [PowerSchool](#) and confirm they are correct.
  - Check in with your counselor about next year before school is out.
  - Final exams represent 20% of your grade.
  - Visit the Spring Art Show!
  - Take AP Tests during the first two weeks of May if registered.
  - Print out final grades from [PowerSchool](#) before it goes offline for the summer.
  - Take SAT Subject Tests if registered.
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### JUNE

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- Summer school starts.
  - Start reading summer book assignments for English.
  - Take SAT Subject Tests if registered.
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# SOPHOMORE YEAR

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## AUGUST

- Attend York Open House. Pick up a copy of the PTSA Academic Committee's "[Making the Most of York](#)" guidebook. It's updated every year!
- All year: Get involved in service and volunteering! If you are interested in [National Honor Society](#) as a junior, document each contribution with a letter and/or signature from the sponsor organization.
- Check out our wonderful [York parent organizations](#) and get involved!
- You will take Drivers Ed either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, depending roughly on when your birthday falls.
- If you haven't already done so, login to [PowerSchool](#) to sign up for daily announcements.
- Check out the [Athletics website](#) for schedules and information on York sports.
- Continue adding to your activity resume.

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## SEPTEMBER

- If applicable, take [AAPPL/STAMP tests to earn the Seal of Biliteracy](#) on your diploma. Students will get a second chance in January.
- Meet with your counselor again to evaluate your 4-year course plan.
- Continue to explore [clubs](#) and activities at York. Get involved and have fun!
- Attend the Collage Concert which features all York bands, orchestras, choirs and dance groups!
- Homecoming Week!

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## OCTOBER

- All freshmen and sophomores attend an event to help them prepare for course selections.
- Parent-teacher conferences.
- Check out the [Performing Arts Calendar](#) for band, orchestra, choir, dance, and drama performances!
- Attend a College Fair. Get acquainted with schools and representatives. Visit the [CCRC](#) page for info.

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## NOVEMBER

- Use your 4-year course plan to select classes for next year (and for summer school, if desired). Juniors/Seniors can take classes at Technology Center of DuPage – refer to the [course offerings website](#) for details, and speak with your counselor.
- The course selection process happens late November through Winter Break.
- Review your 4-year plan with your counselor.
- Thinking about post-high school plans? Check out the CCRC website for information on [college planning](#), [gap years](#), [military service](#), and [school-to-work options](#). Talk with your counselor!
- It's not too early to visit college campuses on school holidays or long weekends. Always go to their websites to register for admissions presentations and tours.

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## DECEMBER

- Final exams represent 20% of your grade.
  - Check out the Winter Art Show!
  - If interested in the U.S. Military, request a pre-candidate questionnaire from your school counselor.
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## SOPHOMORE YEAR CONTINUED...

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### JANUARY

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- Take [AAPPL/STAMP tests to earn the Seal of Biliteracy](#) on your diploma.
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### FEBRUARY

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- Attend the Academic Committee's program: [Life After York Q&A: Insider Tips From Parents to Parents](#), usually scheduled for late February or March.
  - Fine Arts Week and the annual Talent Show usually happen in late February, early March.
  - The American Mathematics Competition (AMC) happens in late January/early February. Refer to the chapter on Testing in the ["Making the Most of York" parent guide](#) for more information.
  - Register for [summer school](#) if it's in your plan.
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### MARCH

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- Register for AP tests as appropriate. York will distribute registration information.
  - All non-AP Biology students take the Illinois Science Assessment sometime in the spring.
  - Register for SAT Subject Tests if applicable (e.g. Take the Chemistry Subject Test after completing Chem Honors while material is still fresh). Subject Tests are required by some selective colleges.
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### APRIL

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- Take the York-administered PSAT-10. Refer to the chapter on testing in the ["Making the Most of York" parent guide](#) on the Academic Committee website.
  - Parents can request a family login for [Naviance](#) and [Career Cruising](#).
  - Final exams represent 20% of your grade.
  - Plan college tests for junior year. York administers the SAT for all juniors in April, but you may want to take the SAT or ACT in the summer before junior year or in the early fall. There are free online sources ([act.org](#) or [khanacademy.com](#)) and printed study guides from the library to help you prepare.
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### MAY

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- Review course requests in [PowerSchool](#) and confirm they are correct.
  - Check in with your counselor before school is out.
  - Visit the Spring Art Show!
  - Print final grades from [PowerSchool](#) before it goes offline for the summer.
  - Take AP Tests during the first two weeks of May.
  - Take SAT Subject Tests if registered.
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### JUNE

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- Start developing a list of colleges of interest. In addition to tools in [Naviance](#), the [College Board website](#), and others, check out the PTSA [Academic Committee website](#) where you will find a [college planning spreadsheet](#).
  - Visit colleges of interest.
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# JUNIOR YEAR

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## AUGUST

- Attend York Open House. Pick up a copy of PTSA Academic Committee's "[Making the Most of York](#)" guidebook. It's updated every year!
- If you haven't already done so, login to [PowerSchool](#) to sign up for daily announcements.
- Check out the [Athletics website](#) for schedules and information on York sports.
- Maintain your activity resume which will be very helpful in completing college/work applications.
- Reevaluate your plan for ACT and/or SAT tests. York administers the SAT to juniors in April, but you may want to take additional tests. Register if you have not already done so. As scores are received, register again for future tests as needed.
- Check out York's College & Career Resource Center [college prep programming](#) for the upcoming school year. Mark your calendar and attend each session.
- Register for optional PSAT/NMSQT. Test is in October.

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## SEPTEMBER

- Take [AAPPL/STAMP tests to earn the Seal of Biliteracy](#) on your diploma. Students will get a second chance in January.
- Meet with your counselor – again – to evaluate your 4-year course plan.
- Check out the CCRC website for information on [college planning](#), [gap years](#), [military service](#), and [school-to-work options](#). Talk with your counselor!
- Homecoming week!
- Explore college websites and online resources.
- Explore [Naviance](#) and [Career Cruising](#) tools to learn about colleges and careers.
- National Honor Society invitations are mailed to qualifying students and petitions (applications) are due this month.
- Attend the Collage Concert, featuring all York bands, orchestras, choirs and dance groups!
- Consider joining a [York parent organization](#)!

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## OCTOBER

- Parent-teacher conferences.
- Attend a College Fair. Get acquainted with schools and representatives. [Visit the CCRC page for local fairs](#).
- Check out the [Performing Arts Calendar](#)!
- York-administered optional PSAT/NMSQT is given to juniors. This is the qualifying exam for the [National Merit Scholarship](#). Refer to the chapter on testing in the "[Making the Most of York](#)" parent guide. Visit the [College Board website](#) for prep resources.

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## NOVEMBER

- [National Honor Society](#) inductions. Students may also apply during senior year.
- Plan college visits for winter or spring vacation. Always go to school websites to register for admissions presentations and tours.
- Course selection happens late November through Winter Break. Use your 4-year plan to select classes for next year (and summer school) and review with your counselor. Be sure all graduation requirements are met. (See notes on the right.)
- Course selection notes:
  - AP Science labs require a lunch/half period.
  - Invite to Teach and Medical Careers courses are each two class periods.
  - Seniors may take 4-12 credits at Elmhurst College. Refer to the [course offerings website](#) and speak with your counselor.
  - Juniors and seniors can take classes at Technology Center of DuPage. Refer to the [course offerings website](#) and speak with your counselor.

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## DECEMBER

- Thinking about post-high school plans that don't involve college? Check out the CCRC website for information on [gap years](#), [military service](#), and [school-to-work options](#). Talk with your counselor!
- Check out the Winter Art Show!

## JUNIOR YEAR CONTINUED...

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### JANUARY

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- Take [AAPPL/STAMP tests to earn the Seal of Biliteracy](#) on your diploma.

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### FEBRUARY

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- Attend the Academic Committee's program [Life After York Q&A: Insider Tips From Parents to Parents](#), usually scheduled for late February or March.
- Fine Arts Week and the annual Talent Show!
- The American Mathematics Competition (AMC) happens in late January/early February. Refer to the chapter on Testing in the ["Making the Most of York" parent guide](#) for more information.
- Register for [summer school](#) if it's in your plan.
- Attend CCRC College Planning Program.

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### MARCH

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- Meet with your counselor – again – to evaluate your senior year course plan.
- All non-AP Biology students take the Illinois Science Assessment sometime in the spring.
- Register for AP Tests. York will distribute registration information.
- Register for SAT Subject Tests for applicable subjects you are completing this semester.

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### APRIL

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- State-administered SAT at York. Visit the [College Board](#) website and/or [Khan Academy](#) for free prep resources.
- Juniors will write a draft college essay as part of English class. Brainstorm topics with your family!
- Determine who you will ask to write college letters of recommendation. [CCRC has forms for students and parents to use for this purpose.](#) Giving 2-3 weeks lead time is courteous and appropriate.
- Prom! Open to juniors and seniors.

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### MAY

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- Visit [PowerSchool](#) to review course requests and print final grades before it goes offline for the summer
- AP testing during the first two weeks of May.
- Register for and take SAT Subject Tests if needed.
- Visit the Spring Art Show!
- Register for ACT and/or additional SAT testing. As scores are received, you may decide to register again for future tests.
- Start researching [scholarships](#).

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### JUNE

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- Summer school starts.
- Start reading book selections for English.
- Take the ACT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests if registered.
- Sign up for [CCRC](#) summer sessions.

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### JULY

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- Review college application requirements.
  - If your colleges of choice use the [Common App](#) or [Coalition App](#), create an account and begin to complete sections of the application. Double and triple check deadlines.
  - If interested in playing college sports, visit [naaa.org](#) to register for an NCAA number.
  - Arts students may need to submit an audition tape or portfolio as part of the college application process. Start working on these as soon as possible!
  - Visit colleges.
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# SENIOR YEAR

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## AUGUST

- Attend York Open House.
- Make a senior counseling appointment with the CCRC. Follow the "[12 Steps to College](#)" checklist found in the Senior Programs section of the CCRC website.
- Refine your college list. Your list should include 25% Reach, 50% Match and 25% Likely schools, based on student test scores and GPA. Use a tracking tool or spreadsheet to help you stay organized (see the PTSA Academic Committee website for an example - [Multi-Tab Planning Spreadsheet](#)).
- Check out CCRC [college prep programming](#) and mark your calendar for the upcoming school year. Be sure to attend these helpful sessions.
- Review college admission requirements. Fill out each college application carefully, and review.
- Review your testing plan to ensure scores will reach colleges by the application deadlines. Consider Early Decision or Early Action plans.
- [FAFSA](#) and [CSS](#) filing dates are 10/1. Determine which financial aid program is used by each of your preferred schools. Funds are usually first come, first served.
- Check out the [Athletics website](#) for schedules and information on York sports.
- [Common App](#) essay questions are usually posted on the website this month. Choose your topic and begin drafting your essay.

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## SEPTEMBER

- Take [AAPPL/STAMP tests to earn the Seal of Biliteracy](#) on your diploma. Students have a second chance in January.
- Seek out [scholarship opportunities](#).
- National Honor Society invitations are mailed to qualifying students and petitions (applications) are due this month.
- Attend college meetings with reps visiting York.
- Homecoming week!
- It's not too late to join a [parent organization](#).
- Explore college websites and online resources.
- This is the latest month recommended to take standardized tests if you're considering an Early Action or Early Decision college application.
- Request a copy of your transcript and check it for accuracy. Also, complete the **green** Transcript Release Form which you can find in the CCRC office.
- Attend the Collage Concert, featuring all York bands, orchestras, choirs and dance groups! And check out the [Performing Arts Calendar](#).

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## OCTOBER

- Visit the CCRC for important college forms:
  - Transcript Release Form (**green**) for each school in [Naviance](#).
  - Transcript Request and Tracking Form (**pink**).
  - Counselor Recommendation Form (**blue**).
- Attend the CCRC's FAFSA completion workshop.
- Submit the FAFSA and CSS forms for college financial aid even if you don't think you'll qualify for need-based aid.

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## NOVEMBER

- Early Action and Early Decision due dates are usually 11/1 or 11/15.
- Students qualifying for the Seal of Biliteracy will have a memo on their transcript indicating as such, in time for ED/EA applications.
- National Honor Society inductions.
- Thinking about post-high school plans that do not involve college? Check out the CCRC website for information on [gap years, military service, and school-to-work options](#). Talk with your counselor!

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## DECEMBER

- If qualified, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation must receive SAT scores by 12/31. SAT will **not** report your scores unless you request it.
- Check out the Winter Art Show!

## SENIOR YEAR CONTINUED...

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### JANUARY

- Most Regular Decision applications are due 1/1.
- Take [AAPPL/STAMP tests to earn the Seal of Biliteracy](#) on your diploma.
- Send transcript of fall grades to colleges requiring them.
- Performing Arts students often have live college auditions during January and February. Be sure to check dates with each college.

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### FEBRUARY

- Fine Arts Week and the annual Talent Show usually happen in late February, early March.
- The American Mathematics Competition (AMC) happens in late January/early February. Refer to the chapter on Testing in the [“Making the Most of York” parent guide](#) for more information.

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### MARCH

- Register for AP tests if the results are important to your college plans. York will distribute registration information.
- All non-AP Biology students take the Illinois Science Assessment sometime in the spring.
- Register for SAT Subject Tests if applicable for college placement purposes. Some selective colleges require SAT Subject Tests.

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### APRIL

- Pay enrollment deposit at your new college. Deadline is typically by 5/1.
- Scholarship Night!
- Prom!

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### MAY

- May 1 is Duke Decision Day! Place your pin on the map just outside the CCRC to indicate your post-high school plans.
- AP testing occurs during the first two weeks of May.
- Visit the Spring Art Show!
- Take SAT Subject Tests if registered.
- Senior Picnic!
- Academic and Athletic Awards Night!
- Graduation!

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### JUNE

- Send final transcripts.
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