

11TH GRADE/JUNIOR YEAR

FALL SEMESTER

MAINTAIN YOUR GRADES

Maintaining your grades during your junior year is especially important. You should be doing at least 2 hours of homework each night and participating in study groups.

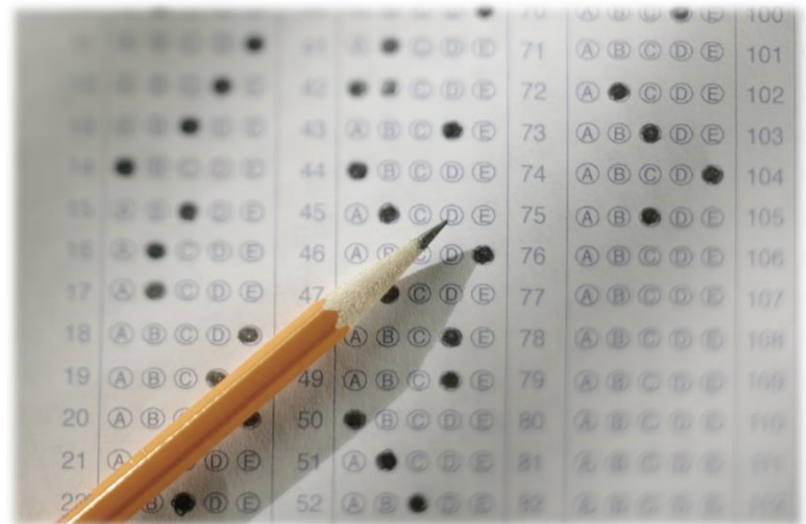
TALK TO YOUR TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS

Talk to your [guidance counselor](#) (or teachers, if you don't have access to a guidance counselor) about the following:

- Availability of and enrollment in [Advanced Placement](#) classes
- Schedules for the [PSAT](#), [SAT Reasoning Test](#) and [SAT Subject Tests](#), [ACT](#), and [AP](#) exams
- Discuss why you should take these exams and how they could benefit you.
- Determine which exams you will take. (You can always change your mind.)
- Sign up and prepare for the exams you've decided to take.
- Ask for a preview of your academic record and profile, determine what gaps or weaknesses there are, and get suggestions on how to strengthen your candidacy for the schools in which you are interested.
- Determine what it takes to gain admission to the college(s) of your choice, in addition to GPA and test score requirements.

SEPTEMBER

- Register for the [PSAT](#) exam offered in October. Remember that when you take the [PSAT](#) in your junior year, the scores will count towards the National Achievement Program (and it is good practice for the SAT Reasoning Test).
- FREE Test Prep available:
 - KhanAcademy.org (SAT)
 - Act.org (Free Kaplan Online Prep Live Sept. 20)
 - March2Success.com (ACT, SAT)
 - Magoosh.com Free ACT & SAT Prep EBooks



OCTOBER

- Take the [PSAT](#). Narrow your list of colleges to include a few colleges with requirements at your current GPA, a few with requirements above your current GPA, and at least one with requirements below your GPA. Your list should contain approximately 8-12 schools you are seriously considering. Start researching your [federal financial aid options](#) and [private financial aid](#) programs as well.

- Begin scheduling interviews with admissions counselors. If possible, schedule tours of the school grounds on the same days. You and your parent(s) may want to visit the postsecondary schools during spring break and summer vacation, so that you do not have to miss school. Some high schools consider a campus visit an excused absence, however, so if need be, you may be able to schedule interviews and visits during the school year, without incurring any penalties.



NOVEMBER

- Review your [PSAT](#) results with your counselor, in order to identify your strengths and to determine the areas that you may need to improve upon.

DECEMBER

- You will receive your scores from the October [PSAT](#). Depending on the results, you may want to consider signing up for an SAT preparatory course. Many high schools offer short-term preparatory classes or seminars on the various exams, which tell the students what to expect and can actually help to boost their scores.