Maryville High School

JUNIOR

Post-Secondary Planning Checklist

When a student applies to college in the fall of his/her senior year, high schools send the student's six-semester transcript (freshman-junior year). Ideally, the student's junior year grades will be as good as, if not better than the freshman or sophomore year. A student's college application will look best if his/her grades are trending upwards, not down. During a student's junior year, he/she could embrace greater academic rigor with an honors, Local Dual Credit (LDC), Industry Certification (IC), Statewide Dual Credit (SDC), Dual Enrollment (DE), or Advanced Placement (AP) course. Likewise, he or she might plan on taking the PSAT/NMSQT, ASVAB, or ACT assessment. Outside of the classroom, juniors need to cultivate deeper involvement in extracurricular activities.

TO DO LIST

☐ Take Advantage of Challenging Courses Related to Future Career Interests

No piece of the college application carries more weight than the academic record (transcript). If a student can take any SDC/AP/DE courses in his/her junior year, he/she should do so. If the student can study a subject in greater depth than what is required, do so. A student's success in upper-level high school courses functions as a clear indicator of the skills required for achievement post-secondary. Students can also explore work-based learning opportunities related to his/her pathway.

☐ Pursue Academic Excellence

Junior year is probably the most important year for earning good grades in challenging courses. If a student had a few marginal grades in 9th or 10th grade, improvement in the 11th grade shows a college or employer how he/she learned how to overcome academic challenges, which could translate to the college setting or to the workforce.

☐ Stay or Get Involved in Clubs and Activities that Spark Interest and Passions

Students should create and/or update a high school resume, which highlights activities, talents, honors, leadership positions, interests, job experience, or community service.

☐ Create and Finish the Brain Games in YouScience

Students can create accounts and complete the nine brain games within YouScience to gain valuable insight into their aptitudes and how those are linked to certain careers. The goal of YouScience is to help students uncover their natural abilities and find the career paths that will best utilize those talents. Students have access to their account for ten years.

☐ Register for the ASVAB

The ASVAB is not an intelligence test, but rather a test of one's individual strengths and weaknesses in areas such as math, science, and reading, as well as one's current knowledge of specific mechanical, electronic, automotive, and shop concepts. The ASVAB program helps students learn about their skills and interests, identify potential occupations, and discover all the pathways to career-field entry. We offer this test in the fall and spring.

☐ Assume a Leadership Role in an Extracurricular Activity

Leadership demonstrates commitment and motivation, which are two qualities that admissions offices or future employers are seeking. Beyond elected positions, students should consider ways to more deeply contribute to organizations/our community.

☐ Update or Create a High School Resume

Complete a list of activities, talents, honors, leadership positions, interests, and job experience and put it in a resume format. An updated resume will help when a student applies for a job, scholarship, or college admission.

☐ Take the ACT and/or SAT

Keep track of ACT and SAT registration deadlines and test dates. In the spring semester, each junior is offered a free in-school ACT test. College scholarships are often linked to GPA and ACT/SAT performance.

☐ Consider College Majors and/or Potential Career Field

Research careers that may spark interest in a specific major. Job shadow within these professions. Explore careers through YouScience and SchooLinks.

☐ Research and Visit Colleges

Use SchooLinks to explore colleges. Attend college or career fairs-Maryville College hosts a fall Blount County College Fair in September. MHS offers juniors and seniors two FREE excused college visit days, so take advantage of every opportunity to visit a college campus. Make an appointment to go on campus tours through the school's admissions office -- preferably when the colleges are in session.

☐ Student-Athletes: Learn More about Eligibility

Register with the NCAA or NAIA, if playing a sport post-high school is realistic and/or feasible.

☐ In the Spring, Meet with a School Counselor

Develop a balanced list of colleges and/or job prospects that fit both future financial and academic goals. Schedule senior year classes in light of post-high school college and career goals.

☐ Evaluate Finances Related to Post-Secondary Planning

Cultivate a college list with family's finances as a variable. Hold candid conversations about finances and post-high school aspirations.

☐ Research Financial Aid and Scholarships

What are the financial aid policies of the colleges for which you are interested? Do they offer merit based aid that does not consider need? Become familiar with our MHS Canvas site - Scholarship Info.

☐ Talk with Senior Friends

Ask questions to older students about their post-MHS goals and action plans.

☐ Make the Most of Summer Break

Every student's summer is different. Evaluate a summer plan based on long-term goals and your family dynamic. Visit colleges. Travel some. Attend an extracurricular summer program. Get a summer job. Volunteer somewhere. Enjoy summer break!