

JDHS Junior Planning Information

2024



Jonathan Dayton High School
139 Mountain Avenue
Springfield, NJ 07081

Name: _____

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Minimum Requirements</u>
English/ Language Arts Literacy	20 Credits
United States History	10 Credits
World History	5 Credits
Physical Education and Health	15 Credits
Mathematics	20 Credits
Laboratory Science (Biology, Chemistry, plus third year of Laboratory Science)	15 Credits
World Languages	10 Credits
Economic and Financial Literacy	2.5 Credits
Visual and Performing Arts	5 Credits
21st Century Life and Career/Practical Arts	5 Credits
Additional Electives	14.5 Credits
<u>Total Credits to Graduate</u>	<u>130 Credits</u>

COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT

Beginning in grade 9, students are required to complete a minimum of 30 hours of community service and/or volunteer work each academic year. This requirement will be reviewed on an annual basis, and the Principal may modify the requirements, with the approval of the Superintendent and Board of Education. Please note that even if a student completes more than 30 hours in a given year, only 30 hours will count towards the graduation requirement. Service hours will be reviewed quarterly with your child's assigned school counselor.

COLLEGE ADMISSION TESTING

You may view the schedule of testing dates and register at [CollegeBoard.org](https://collegeboard.org) and/or [ACT Student.org](https://actstudent.org).

Important Notes

1. It is your responsibility to register and prepare for these tests, and also to send scores to the colleges during the application process. (Take at least one test during your junior year)
2. Both the SAT and ACT offer free sample tests that you can take online. Try taking both to see which you are more comfortable with.
3. Many local tutoring centers offer SAT/ACT prep courses. Local libraries also may run free workshops throughout the year. At the very least, secure a test prep book from the bookstore or library. Khan Academy offers free SAT prep at khanacademy.org!
4. If you receive free or reduced lunch, you are eligible for an SAT and/or ACT Fee Waiver.
5. Most colleges have test-optional admissions policies. When considering if you should send your test score, we recommend only doing so if your score meets or exceeds the middle 50% of scores reported by the college/university.

NATIONAL TESTING DATES
2023-2024

ACT
www.actstudent.org

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Deadline</u>
April 13, 2024 (JDHS)	March 8, 2024	March 24, 2024
May 4, 2024	April 19, 2024	April 23, 2024
Jun 1, 2024	May 17, 2024	May 21, 2024
Sept 7, 2023	August 2, 2024	August 16, 2024
October 26, 2024 (JDHS)	September 20, 2024	October 4, 2024
December 7, 2024	November 1, 2024	November 15, 2024

SAT
www.collegeboard.org

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Deadline</u>
March 9, 2024	February 23, 2024	February 27, 2024
May 4, 2024	April 19, 2024	April 23, 2024
June 1, 2024	May 16, 2024	May 21, 2024
August 24, 2024		
October 5, 2023 (JDHS)		
November 2, 2024		
December 7, 2024		

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION PROCESS

Counselor Recommendations (required): One letter of recommendation is required from your counselor along with 2 letters of recommendation from teachers. [Parent](#) and [student](#) brag sheets are used to provide information they would like counselors to know before writing your student's letter.

Teacher Recommendations (required): You are advised to request 2 letters of recommendation from your teachers of core academic subjects (English, Math, Social Studies, Science, World Languages). Ask your teachers if they are willing to write one for you. Request teacher letters of recommendation through Naviance and be sure to follow up with a thank you.

Other Recommendations (optional): You also may choose to have other recommenders (coaches, bosses, etc.) mail or email letters to the colleges. If you are requesting a letter of recommendation from someone outside of Dayton, you must supply this person with a stamped envelope addressed with the name of the college or the admissions office email. JDHS is not responsible for sending these letters.

FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

1. **REFLECT:** Academics, campus life, location, values. What matters most to you?
2. **RESEARCH:** College websites, rankings, talk to students/alumni, virtual tours.
3. **EXPLORE:** Campus visits, talk to professors/admissions.
4. **BALANCE YOUR LIST:** Reach, target, and safe schools. 5~8 schools in total.
5. **FINANCIALS:** Research scholarships, grants, and work-study, use the Net Price Calculator on the college's website.
6. **ASK QUESTIONS:** Seek guidance from admissions, school counselor, or current students

APPLICATION TYPES & STRATEGY

Application Type	Pros	Cons
Early Decision	• Ideal fit • early notification • demonstrated interest	• May limit scholarship • Competitive • limits to one school
Early Action	• Early notification • Scholarships • demonstrated interest-ish	• Start the SY busy (imagine extra AP class) • chance of defer/waitlist for reaches • highly competitive
Rolling	• Easier early • 2-6 week timeline • apply when ready	• Can get FOMO • beware of scholarship • priority deadline
Regular Decision	• Time to improve senior grades • more time to decide	• Competitive • beware of scholarship • priority deadline • can feel like you're "late"
Priority	• Scholarship consideration • competitive	• Usually in the first semester • slightly earlier deadline

COMMON APP ESSAY PROMPTS

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Your essay needs to say something about YOU as a person! Something the admissions counselors will not already know from reviewing your application. Your entire application should tell a story and your essay(s) can help tie everything together.

FINANCIAL AID FAQs

Q: Where can I find an estimation of how much financial aid I will receive?

A: Complete the net price calculator on the specific college's website and/ or complete the FAFSA 4caster on <https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm>

Q: Do I need to fill out the FAFSA?

A: You MUST complete the FAFSA. It is now required for all NJ public HS students beginning with the class of 2025. File online on or after October 1st of your senior year at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>.

Q: Do I need to fill out the CSS Profile?

A: Many schools require the CSS Profile to be completed. Check your colleges' website to confirm if it is required. The CSS Profile becomes available on October 1st of your senior year at <http://css.collegeboard.org>. It is often due by the colleges' application deadline.

Q: What is the difference between loans, grants, and scholarships?

A: Loans: Money you need to pay back

 Grants: gifted money; based on financial need

 Scholarships: gifted money; based on academic merit

Q: Where can I learn more about scholarships?

A: goingmerry.com, specific colleges' financial aid website, Common App; CollegeBoard, and more.

SUGGESTED COLLEGE APPLICATION TIMELINE

<u>Month</u>	<u>Tasks</u>
March	• Register & prepare for SAT, and/or ACT • Arrange campus visits • Think about which teachers you will ask for letters of recommendation.
April	• Register and prepare for the SAT, and/or ACT • Visit several colleges and begin to identify qualities that you are looking for in a school. • Start brainstorming your college essay and jotting down some ideas. • Request teacher recommendations.
May	• Register and prepare for the SAT, and/or ACT • Identify the colleges you would like to apply to through research/Naviance, campus visits, and conversations with adults that you trust. • Start brainstorming your college essay and jotting down some ideas. • Request teacher recommendations.
June	• Request teacher recommendations. • Hold on to any graded analytical papers that you may end up submitting to test-optional colleges. • Start preparing a rough draft for your Common App essay.
July	• Give yourself a <i>little</i> break. • Work on any summer assignments- do NOT wait until the last minute.
August	• Begin working on applications. • Fill out the Common App https://www.commonapp.org/ • Schedule admissions interviews, if applicable