

***North Plainfield High School***  
***School Counseling Department***  
**Junior Checklist for College Planning**

- **Complete Counselor Brag Sheet**, found on Naviance ([connection.naviance.com/nplainfieldhs](http://connection.naviance.com/nplainfieldhs)) by May 15th. If you need your Naviance username and /or password, please see your school counselor.
- **Deciding on a major:**
  - Learn about careers, read the “Occupational Outlook Handbook,”: [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)
  - **Naviance-** ([connection.naviance.com/nplainfieldhs](http://connection.naviance.com/nplainfieldhs))  
Explore careers in the “Careers or About Me” Tabs. Complete Career Interest Inventories which will generate a list of careers based on your personality, interests or skills. (“Do What You Are” (personality profiler), “Strengths Explorer”, “MI Advantage”, and “Game Plan”)
  - **ASVAB** - Sign up for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, ASVAB assessments given at our high school on March 21, 2018. Listen to morning announcements. <http://www.asvabprogram.com>  
Practice tests- <https://www.march2success.com>
- **Research colleges** that offer the major you would like to pursue. Search on Naviance in the “Colleges” Tab, use the “*Supermatch College Search*” Tool. Also, there are other useful websites such as: [www.connection.naviance.com/nplainfieldhs](http://www.connection.naviance.com/nplainfieldhs), [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org), and [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com).
- **Visit the colleges** you are interested in during the spring and summer of your junior year. Register for Open Houses and tours directly on the college websites. Also, check in NPHS counseling website, and on college websites for summer enrichment programs. Some programs will offer college credit.
- **Take college entrance exams:** SAT and/or ACT. You can register for the SAT and SAT 11 Subject Tests at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) and/or the ACT at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org). (The SAT is offered at NPHS in October, November, May and June). *Check with the school you are applying to if it is required to take the SAT 11 Subject Test -Ivy Leagues usually require 2 SAT 11 Subject tests.* Prepare for the SAT by registering for an SAT prep program offered here at our high school. Review your PSAT results and work on areas that you need to improve. PSAT is a qualifier for National Merit Scholarships.
  - Take your SAT at least twice. Some colleges accept the best score from each test (superscore).
  - On test date make sure to bring the following with you: *Admission Ticket and photo ID. Also bring a snack/drink, #2 pencils, and a calculator.*
  - It takes approximately 3-5 weeks for the results to be available.
  - Remember to send SAT/SUBJECT TESTS-SAT II/ACT scores directly to colleges from collegeboard.org (SAT) or ACT.org.
    - For SATs it is free to send scores to four colleges at the date you register for the SATs until 9 days after you take the test. After that, there is a fee to send SAT scores to each school. For ACT, it is free to send scores to four schools at the date you register for the ACT test and until 12 noon the Thursday after the test date. After that, it is \$13.00 to send ACT scores to each school. (As of 10/8/18). \*If you used fee waivers it is free to send your SAT and Subject test scores to the colleges through the College Board website. ACT-with a fee waiver you can send your scores to 20 colleges for free.
  - **IF YOU HAVE FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH, YOU QUALIFY FOR SAT, SAT 11 SUBJECT TEST, AND ACT FEE WAIVERS-PLEASE SEE YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR FOR FEE WAIVER CODES. (2 FEE WAIVERS PER TEST). FOR SATs YOU WILL GET 4 COLLEGE FEE WAVIER CODES LOCATED AT COLLEGE BOARD WEBSITE.**
- **Create your college list on Naviance.** Be sure to choose schools that match the GPA and SAT/ACT scores Criteria.

- **Learn about Financial Aid** by visiting FAFSA - Federal Student Aid ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) and the HESAA- State Student Aid websites ([www.hesaa.org](http://www.hesaa.org)). To qualify for Federal aid, parents and students must first register for an FSA ID one for a parent and one for the student at ([www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)) and then apply for Financial aid (FAFSA) at ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)). Filing for financial aid is free. **You can apply for financial aid after October 1<sup>st</sup> during your senior year.** Estimate eligibility for Federal Student Aid at ([www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov)).
- **You can begin applying to colleges in August.** There are two ways to apply:
  - 1) Complete college application found directly on the college website;
  - Or**
  - 2) Complete Common Application ([www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)) which allows you to apply to several participating schools with one application. If you are using the Common Application, remember to **Match** application on Naviance by adding the email used on Common Application.
- **Decide if you are planning to apply Early Decision, (which is legally binding), Early Action, (non-binding) or Regular Deadline.** If you are applying early decision or early action deadline, make an appointment to meet with your school counselor in September.
- **Begin writing your college essays.** The essay prompts are available in the spring and can be found on college application and Common Application websites. Have your English teacher proofread your essays. Make sure you are answering the question that is being asked.
- **Ask 2-3 teachers, personally, to write a recommendation letter.** Then add the recommendation request on Naviance Teacher Request (found in Colleges Tab)
- In the fall of your senior year many colleges visit our school. **Sign up to participate for college on-site interviews (instant decision) and college information visits on Naviance.** We highly encourage you to visit the colleges you intend to apply to. Many record your visits and also offer application fee waivers.
- **Planning on playing sports in college? Athletes:** register at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) for NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) eligibility, Division I and II institutions. Also visit [www.2point3.org](http://www.2point3.org)
- Some colleges require that you apply in October, of your senior year, for the **CSS/Financial Aid Profile** (college scholarship service) at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>. Many universities use this profile to help them award non-federal student aid funds. Check with the college before applying.
- **Search for scholarships** on Fastweb.com, scholarship.com or collegeboard.org. and visit the NPHS Counseling website. <http://www.nplainfield.org/domain/492>
- You may qualify for additional financial state aid through the **Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)** Check to see if you are eligible at [http://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/EOF/EOF\\_Eligibility.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/EOF/EOF_Eligibility.shtml). If you are eligible you have to indicate that you qualify for EOF or EOP on your college application.
- After October 1<sup>st</sup>, apply for **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). (If you need assistance call **1-800-433-3243**). It is free to fill out the FAFSA application online.
- Males 18 years or older must register with **Selective Service**; register online at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov). If you do not register you will be denied many important opportunities such as student loans and/or government jobs.

## USEFUL WEBSITES:

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) – Scholarships

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

[www.meritaid.com](http://www.meritaid.com)

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

[www.scholarshipexperts.com](http://www.scholarshipexperts.com)

[www.brokescholar.com](http://www.brokescholar.com)

[www.collegedata.com](http://www.collegedata.com)

[www.uncf.org](http://www.uncf.org)

[www.unigo.com](http://www.unigo.com) Unigo Scholarships

[www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com) Scholarships

[www.persons.com](http://www.persons.com) - Scholarships

[www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net) - Hispanic Scholarship Fund

[www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net) – Hispanic Scholarship Fund

[Raise.me](http://Raise.me) -way to record different leadership roles that you have to see what scholarships you will get at varied colleges.

[www.questbridge.org](http://www.questbridge.org) Non-profit organization matching a list of nation's best colleges to low income students

[www.collegeboard.org-Scholarship Search](http://www.collegeboard.org-Scholarship Search)

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org> College Search through Collegeboard

[www.collegesinnewjersey.com](http://www.collegesinnewjersey.com) – Colleges in New Jersey

[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) – Common Application-make sure it is matched with Naviance

[www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco) - Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook

Handbook (Research different careers-also on Naviance)

[www.berghuis.co.nz/abiator/lsi/lsiframe.html](http://www.berghuis.co.nz/abiator/lsi/lsiframe.html) Learning Style Assessment

[www.hesaa.org](http://www.hesaa.org) – NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

<http://www.hesaa.org/Pages/NJFAFSAGO.aspx> - FAFSA DAYS at different colleges where representatives assist you with filling out your online financial aid application - [www.njfafsadays.org](http://www.njfafsadays.org)

<http://fairtest.org/university/optional> - SAT/ACT Optional Schools

[www.collegemajors101.com](http://www.collegemajors101.com)

[www.march2success.com](http://www.march2success.com) - Online program to help study for ASVAB and standardized tests

[www.asvabprogram.com](http://www.asvabprogram.com) - Career planning

### **AP information from college board**

[www.apstudent.collegeboard.org](http://www.apstudent.collegeboard.org)

[www.collegeboard.org/shareap](http://www.collegeboard.org/shareap)

[www.collegeboard.org/apexamfeeassistance](http://www.collegeboard.org/apexamfeeassistance)

[www.sat.org/collegeappfee waiver.org](http://www.sat.org/collegeappfee waiver.org) (If you used a fee waiver to take the SAT I or SAT II Subject tests you get 4 fee waiver college application codes through collegeboard.org when applying to colleges)

[www.khanacademy.org/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat) - Practice tests