



JUNIOR PLANNING TIMELINE

FEBRUARY THROUGH THE SUMMER

Students are encouraged to continue to achieve at their highest level. Students need to maintain a solid course schedule and strong grades. YES, JUNIOR YEAR IS AN IMPORTANT YEAR ACADEMICALLY!!

Students should stay in touch with their counselor as needed. BE PROACTIVE!

Students should continue to build on their base of experiences outside the classroom. They should get involved in activities that are a major commitment (i.e. clubs, sports, work, community service) and feel free to try new things. Students need to be sure to maintain a balance between activities and academics.

Students and families are encouraged to explore colleges and careers using Naviance, a web-based comprehensive planning tool. To access Naviance with your student, go to connection.naviance.com/ucrhs and have your student enter their username and password. Juniors are strongly encouraged to share this information with their parents/guardians. Basic features (like the National Scholarship Search).

In your Naviance account under the colleges tab you will find enrichment opportunities, resources, etc. Investigate a summer job, internship, volunteer opportunity, pre-college summer program, or enrichment programs.

NACAC NJ National College Fair is being held at the NJ Convention & Exposition Center in Edison, NJ on Wednesday March 6, 2024 from 5:30pm-8:30pm.

- **This fair will include designated exhibit space for STEM and Performing and Visual Arts programs**

Website: [NACAC National College Fair](#)

IF YOUR STUDENT HAS A LEARNING DIFFERENCE and has not already applied for accommodations on the SAT or ACT but would like to pursue this option, please contact Dr. Jennifer Dixon, Director of School Counseling, as soon as possible. Please note that when a student registers for the SAT or ACT they should always confirm that their accommodations are connected with their registration well before the registration deadline. The admission ticket should always state the accommodations. Please contact Dr. Dixon (908-8891600 x332) or jdixon@unioncatholic.org for any questions or concerns.

COURSE SELECTION Juniors will be choosing their courses for senior year at the end of February. The most challenging senior courses should be chosen according to the abilities of the student (not too easy; not too hard). College admissions officers are very adept at determining whether applicants have truly challenged themselves in high school.

Schedule a **FAMILY CONFERENCE** with your student's school counselor to discuss post-secondary options

- A Family College Planning Conference with the counselor is highly recommended!! Schedule a time with the counselor using [Calendly Links](#) - Individual planning conferences with the student are also available (as many as are necessary over the next year).

Begin to formulate a list of colleges to which you may want to apply. In your Naviance account you will list them in the “Colleges I’m Thinking About” section.

To help formulate this list, students and families should use the SuperMatch™ College Search feature on Naviance, which can be found under the Colleges tab. Your student has already taken part in various **Naviance assessments** and they are saved for the student and family to view and adapt. If students have not already completed the Career Assessments in Naviance, they are highly encouraged to do so.

Juniors will be completing their **College Recommendation Requests (Prompt Sheets)** surveys for the two teachers of their choosing. These prompts can be found in Naviance under the about me tab – “School Surveys.”

- The **Student Brag Sheet** and the **Parent Brag Sheet** both enable the counselors to write a very comprehensive college recommendation for their students. We ask for completed forms by the end of May before leaving for summer break. Also found in Naviance under the “about me” tab scroll down to school surveys.

TESTING

- Students may register for the SAT on **March 9, May 4, or June 1** by going to www.collegeboard.org.
- Students may register for the ACT on **April 13, June 8, or July 13** by going to www.act.org

PLEASE NOTE: registration deadlines are about a month before the test date!

VISIT COLLEGES while they are still in session, if possible. If you can't schedule a visit while a college is in session, go anyway! Students should continue college and career research and the college visiting process, aiming to bring their lists down to an appropriate range, typically 6-8 possibilities for final consideration during the fall. Students should be collecting college information and visiting colleges.

COLLEGE ESSAY: Students should continue preparing their personal statement/essays for college applications during the summer. Students will also likely have to complete additional Supplemental Essays for individual schools, so getting the general, college essay out of the way will be helpful!

ATHLETES interested in playing for Division 1 or 11 schools **MUST REGISTER ONLINE** with the NCAA Clearinghouse. After registering, be sure to see your School Counselor to request the Athletic Release form. A signed form is required in order for the Counseling Office to upload your transcripts to the NCAA Eligibility Center. Questions pertaining to NCAA eligibility should be directed to Mr. Brian Kopnicki at: bkopnicki@unioncatholic.org