Junior Year	SHS School Counseling College/Career Readiness Calendar
September Tip Researching postsecondary and career options helps juniors make informed decisions and set realistic future goals.	• Register with UConn if you are enrolled in an ECE course to ensure eligibility for college credit. Connect with your school counselor if you need assistance with the registration process. • Use resources like College Board and Naviance to research postsecondary education and career options. Begin narrowing down your interests and building a list of potential colleges and programs.
October Tip Attending Financial Aid Night can clarify college costs, scholarships, and aid options, helping you plan early and make informed choices.	• Attend College Financial Aid Night to learn strategies for paying for college. This virtual event is open to students and families in grades 9–12. • Take the PSAT/NMSQT, which serves as both a practice test for the SAT and the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship. • Complete the College Fair Preparation Sheet during Advisory to plan your questions and goals for the upcoming College Fair. • Participate in the College Fair Scavenger Hunt to engage with college representatives and gather valuable information. • Attend the SHS College Fair to meet admissions representatives, explore different colleges, and expand your list of potential schools.
November Tip Reviewing the college and future planning presentation will help you formulate questions and meet with your school counselor to personalize your plan based on your needs and goals.	• Participate in Post-Secondary Planning Lessons during Wildcat with your school counselors to explore college and career options. • Review the College and Future Planning presentation and engage in small group Q&A sessions to deepen your understanding and clarify any questions. • In Advisory, research and discuss different career pathways and post-secondary options to identify areas of interest. • Use tools like the Naviance College Search, Occupational Outlook Handbook, ONET, and CT Trade Schools to gather information about various careers and educational paths. • Consider taking the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) to explore military and civilian career opportunities that match your skills and interests.
December Tip Free resources like Khan Academy and ACT Academy are excellent because they provide high-quality, accessible study materials for effective exam preparation at no cost.	• Attend College Future Planning Night with your family to learn about the college application process and post-secondary planning. • Participate in Advisory lessons focused on the course selection process for the upcoming school year. • Begin or update your resume to include work experience, volunteer activities, extracurricular involvement, and awards. • Take advantage of free resources like Khan Academy for SAT prep and ACT Academy for ACT prep to strengthen your test readiness. • Schedule a meeting with your school counselor to review your post-secondary plans and discuss your research progress.

January Tip Start thinking about courses for your Senior year and have conversations with your Teachers and school counselors.	• Meet individually with your SHS teachers to discuss course recommendations for senior year. Review placements and ask questions to ensure your selections support your post-secondary goals. • Begin entering your course requests into PowerSchool through the Course Selection Portal • Explore options for SAT prep courses, including programs offered by providers like Princeton Review. Contact your school counselor for details and enrollment information.
February Tip: Update your goals with your school counselor, connect with college reps, and schedule campus visits with questions ready.	• Meet with your school counselor to review and update your 4-Year Course and Career Goal Plan. Finalize your course requests for senior year. • Participate in Junior Planning Wildcat sessions featuring senior guest speakers who will share insights from their post-secondary experiences. • Connect with college representatives visiting SHS during lunch periods. Use these opportunities to gather information and ask questions. • Schedule campus visits to colleges you are interested in and prepare thoughtful questions to make the most of each visit.
March/April Tip Standardized test registration deadlines are important to keep in mind as you prepare for college admissions. Check the official SAT and ACT websites early to confirm registration deadlines and test dates each year.	• Schedule a Junior Planning meeting with your school counselor to review all post-secondary options and plan your college application process. Parents are encouraged to participate in these personalized sessions covering 2-year and 4-year colleges, trade schools, and other pathways. • Review and update your resume in Naviance. You'll need a current copy when requesting letters of recommendation. • Take advantage of free virtual events like the Princeton Review's "Find Your Best Fit for College" to learn about college options and admissions strategies. Register in advance to receive the event link. • Continue preparing for standardized tests such as the SAT and ACT, and take the exams as scheduled. • Engage with college representatives visiting SHS during lunch periods. Use these visits to ask questions and gather materials. • Attend local National College Fairs at venues like the Connecticut Convention Center and Springfield to explore a wide range of colleges and programs.
April/May Tip Visit college campuses during April break and schedule a meeting with your counselor. Keep your resume updated for applications.	• Use your April break to visit college campuses while classes are in session. Campus visits provide valuable insight into academic programs and campus life. • Schedule a Junior Planning meeting with your school counselor to review post-secondary options and plan your college application process. Parents are encouraged to join these personalized sessions. • Review and update your resume in Naviance to ensure it reflects your latest achievements and experiences. A current resume is important for requesting letters of recommendation. • Meet with your school counselor to review your academic schedule for senior year and set goals to prepare for upcoming challenges. • Attend the National College Fair at the Big E Fairgrounds to explore a variety of colleges and programs.
April/May Tip Be sure to check ACT registration deadlines	• If you plan to play a sport at the Division I or II college level, register with the NCAA Eligibility Center to ensure you meet participation requirements. • Create an account at NCAA.org, complete your registration, and obtain your NCAA ID number.

well in advance of your planned test date. This is not administered at SHS	• Submit a NCAA Transcript Request Form through your school to verify your academic eligibility. • Prepare for upcoming standardized tests such as the ACT and ensure you register as needed.
May/June Tip Ask 2-3 teachers for recommendation letters and give them your updated resume. Stay on top of your SAT and ACT prep by confirming your test dates and locations.	• Request letters of recommendation from 2 to 3 teachers. Provide each teacher with your updated resume to help them write a strong, personalized letter. • Prepare for upcoming SAT and ACT exams if you have registered. Make sure you know your test dates and testing locations.
July/August Tip Enjoy your Summer!	• Begin writing your college application essays to ensure they are thoughtful and polished for submission. • Get started on the Common Application once it opens to streamline your college applications. • Continue visiting college campuses to explore programs and campus life firsthand.