

Junior Meeting with CHS Counseling Class of 2027



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



- *No Membership Dues!*
- Weekly Newsletter
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Cougar Cares
- Midnight Madness
- Teacher Appreciation Events

EVERYONE is a member of the CHS HSA!

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



columbiahsa.com



presidents@columbiahsa.com



@chshsasomds



@columbiahsassociation

SUBSCRIBE

columbiahsa.com/register

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CHS Survival Kit

- ❑ Canvas (must “pair with observer”, resources on SOMSD website)
- ❑ PowerSchool (student support: email eanderso@somsd.k12.nj.us; parent support: parentportalhelp@somsd.k12.nj.us)
- ❑ SCOIR
- ❑ Student & Parent/guardian email! (Is your parent/guardian’s email listed correctly in PowerSchool?)
- ❑ CHSattendance @somsd.k12.nj.us (18-9-5)



Academic & Social Emotional Resources

#1 - Your School Counselor!

- ❑ Achieve Tutoring
- ❑ Teacher conferences p. 9
- ❑ Counseling Annex (Achieve Tutoring, SLAM lab)
- ❑ The LOFT (School-based youth services program)
- ❑ S.W.I.P (Social Work Intern)



Junior year is HERE!

- ❑ Graduation requirements
- ❑ Senior course selection
- ❑ Testing!
- ❑ Post-Secondary Planning
- ❑ Junior meetings will occur during 2nd semester!



**JUNIOR YEAR
LOADING**

CHS Graduation Requirements

4 years (20 credits) of **English Language Arts**

4 years (20 credits) of **Physical Education/Health/DE**

3 years (15 credits) of **Mathematics**

Algebra -> Geometry -> Algebra 2 -> Pre-Calculus -> Calculus

3 years (15 credits) of **Science**

Biology -> Physics -> Chemistry

3 years (15 credits) of **Social Studies**

World History -> US 1 -> US 2

1 year (5 credits) of **World Language**

1 year (5 credits) of **Visual & Performing Arts**

1 year (5 credits) of **21st Century Life & Careers**

1/2 year (2.5 credits) of **Financial Literacy**

90 CREDITS REQUIRED TO BE A SENIOR

120 CREDITS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE

NJGPA TESTING REQUIREMENT

Junior Schedule

- 3rd English
- US History 2
- 3rd Math
- Chemistry
- Health 11/PE

*Reminder: If you haven't completed your Financial Literacy, Fine Art, or 21st Century Life & Careers courses, they will need to be in your course requests for senior year

Post-HS Options

- ❑ 4-year College
- ❑ 2-year College
- ❑ Work
- ❑ Military
- ❑ Trade School
- ❑ Post-Graduate year
- ❑ Gap Year/Other



Starting the College Search via SCOIR

- SCOIR is our college database used to research and identify potential schools for your college list
- Students should check to make sure they can access their accounts as they can sign up for college rep visits via SCOIR
- During junior meetings (Feb. 2026), we will review SCOIR in depth

The Ideal College List

Type	Definition	# of Colleges
Reach	Accepts few students with your GPA and test scores	2
Level	Accepts most students with your GPA and test scores	4-6
Likely	Accepts all students with your GPA and test scores AND should be affordable for your family	2

The College Search: Next Steps

- ❑ Virtual tours
- ❑ Virtual information sessions
- ❑ On-campus visits Spring/Summer, if available
- ❑ College Rep Visits at CHS (sign up in SCOIR)
- ❑ Junior students can get up to 3 excused absences for college visits
- ❑ April 7 at CHS: College, Career, Military, and GAP night

College Admission Requirements: Transcript (GPA)

*GPA is updated at the end of each
school year and is based on final
grades only*

So which counts more for colleges? Weighted or
unweighted?

WEIGHTED

Core subjects

Level considered

College Admissions Guidance:

- ❑ Many colleges recommend 4 years of all core subjects and 2-3 years of World Language
- ❑ Choose advanced coursework in specific disciplines! (e.g., the subjects that inspire you)
- ❑ Choose classes that spark your passion—when you're excited to learn, challenges become opportunities to grow, and your effort will carry you further than talent alone.
- ❑ Test optional schools exist

College Admission Requirements: Testing

******It is the student's responsibility to register for a standardized test via the College Board or ACT website.******



<http://www.collegeboard.org>

<http://www.actstudent.org>



If you receive free or reduced lunch, you are eligible for an **SAT Fee Waiver** (Please email Ms. Petroccia (epetrocc@somsd.k12.nj.us) in the Counseling Center for request form).

College Admission Requirements: Testing



<http://www.collegeboard.org>

<http://www.actstudent.org>



Q: When should I take my first test?

*A: Are you currently enrolled in Algebra 2? Wait until May/June to take your first test
Are you currently enrolled in Pre-Calculus or Calculus? You may be prepared to take
your first test in February/March*

Q: Which test should I take?

A: Both CollegeBoard.org (SAT) and ACTStudent.org (ACT) offer **free sample tests** that you can take online – try taking both to see which you are more comfortable with.

Q: How should I study?

A: Many local tutoring centers run **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! There are also **dozens** of gently used test prep books available in the counseling hallway!

College Admission Requirements: Deadlines

Regular Decision –All students must submit their applications by a specific date, usually between November and January. The admissions board then reviews all the applications and sends out acceptances and rejection letters on the same date (usually last week in March/first week in April).

Rolling - Common at large state universities, rolling admission schools accept applications at any time during the admission cycle; typically, September through July. The school then evaluates each college application as it's received and sends acceptance or rejection letters to students within 3-4 weeks of their file being complete.

Early Action – Early Action deadlines are also around November 1st. However, unlike Early Decision, you are not bound to attend if accepted and you can apply Early Action to more than one university. Why apply Early Action? You will usually receive your admission decision by Winter Break!

Early Decision – Only some schools offer the Early Decision option. **You can only apply to one school Early Decision.** Under this admissions program, you apply early (usually by November 1st) and agree to attend this school if accepted, at which point you must withdraw your applications from all other schools. You will not have the opportunity to compare financial aid packages. Since this option is binding, you need to be 100% sure that this school is your #1 choice.



Special Programs



Financially Eligible for EOF?

EOF = Educational Opportunity Fund (New Jersey program)

Provides academic, financial, and personal support for eligible students

Benefits: additional grants, advising, tutoring, and transition programs

👉 Visit the NJ EOF website for income guidelines and program details



Interested in Athletic Recruitment?

Student-athletes must register with the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#)

Requirements: core courses, GPA, SAT/ACT scores (if applicable), and amateur status

Register early—ideally sophomore or junior year

👉 Visit eligibilitycenter.org to create your NCAA account

Financial Aid



Q: Where can I find an estimate of how much financial aid I may receive?

A: Complete the [Federal Student Aid Estimator](#)

Q: How do I apply for financial aid?

A: You MUST complete the [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

A: Some schools may also require the CSS Profile (not all schools do). Think of the FAFSA as the form for federal money, and the CSS Profile as the form some private colleges use to give out their own money

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

A: Loans – Money you must repay.

A: Grants – Gift money, typically based on financial need.

A: Scholarships – Gift money, typically based on merit.

Q: Where can I learn more about scholarships?

A: Check national scholarship databases, individual colleges' financial aid websites, and the [Counseling Scholarship Database](#)



- ❑ Take a deep breath!
- ❑ Create a plan for registering and studying for a standardized test
- ❑ Start exploring colleges on SCOIR
- ❑ Plan college visits/Sign up for rep visits
- ❑ Pay attention to which schools track demonstrated interest
- ❑ Start a note in your phone called "College essay ideas" and jot down thoughts as they come to you!
- ❑ Focus on giving Junior year your all! Ask for help! Utilize our resources!