

JUNIOR CHECKLIST

You're finally an upperclassman! Now is the time to get serious about your plans for after high school. Start planning here!

FALL SEMESTER:

- Colleges like to see an upward trend. Even if your grades haven't been as good as you'd like thus far, there is time to improve. Junior grades are typically the last ones colleges will see before making admission decisions.
- Start narrowing down your college list in earnest this year. Speak to college reps who visit your school. Attend college and career fairs.
- If you are interested in joining the military, talk with your counselor or your school's JROTC instructors for more information.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October. This is the qualifying test for the National Scholarship Service and other scholarships. It is also a great way to practice for the SAT.
- If you plan to participate in Division I or II sports in college, tell your counselor. You'll also need to register for the NCAA clearinghouse on ncaa.org.
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities. Colleges look for consistency and depth in activities.

SPRING SEMESTER:

- Register for and take the SAT (sat.org) and/or ACT (act.org).
- When selecting courses for your senior year, think like a college admissions officer or military recruiter: what would you like to see strong candidates take? Stay connected to academics and challenge yourself.
- Start building your college list based on your values and research.
- Fill out a "brag sheet" or resume so it is polished and ready to share with two academic teachers who know you well in the fall when you request letters of recommendations.

SUMMER:

- Get started on your Common Application. It is daunting to wait until your senior year starts! You'll especially want to knock out the required essays now.
- Get involved this summer: summer programs, camps, volunteering, etc.
- Refine your college list to at least three: one safety school (you're confident you'll be accepted), one match school (your academic qualifications align closely with those of the average admitted student and there is a good chance of acceptance), and a reach school (there may be a low likelihood of acceptance, but it is a school in which you have sincere interest).
- Research scholarship opportunities and start applying.

Action is the foundational key to all success. - pablo picasso