

# Class of 2027 - Junior Year Family Packet

We are excited to help our juniors research and prepare for their life after high school. We will be focusing this spring on assisting them in the college search process, and if they don't plan to attend college right away, we are more than happy to help them plan for whatever path they choose.

We will meet with all juniors in Junior Seminar during the 3rd quarter. Each student will have their own electronic copy of a Junior Checklist through the Junior Seminar Google Classroom. This is the most important document we'll be sharing with them and it outlines the tasks and resources they will need this spring. We strongly encourage students to use the Junior Checklist as your roadmap for the next few months. Please ask your student to share it with you in January when they receive it.

Don't hesitate to reach out to your counselor with questions.

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## Suggested Further Reading:

- *Who Gets In and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions* by Jeffrey Selingo
- *Colleges that Change Lives* by Loren Pope
- *The Gatekeepers* by Jacques Steinberg
- *Where You Go is Not Who You'll Be* by Jacques Steinberg
- *Naked Roommate: For Parents Only* by Harlan Cohen
- *Secrets of a Financial Aid Pro* by Jodi Okun
- *How to Raise an Adult: Break Free of the Overparenting Trap and Prepare Your Kid for Success* by Julie Lythcott-Haims

[Link to AMSA's List of Recommended Resources](#)

[Link to Junior College Planning Night Recording](#)

[Link to A Healthier Approach to College Admissions Recording](#)

**AMSA School CEEB Code: 221349**

**SAT / ACT Dates**

**Digital SAT**

<b>Test Date</b>	<b>Registration Deadline</b>
March 14, 2026	Feb. 27, 2026
May 2, 2026	April 17, 2026
June 6, 2026	May 22, 2026
Anticipated: August 15, 2026	
Anticipated: September 12, 2026	
Anticipated: October 3, 2026	
Anticipated: November 7, 2026	
Anticipated: December 5, 2026	

**ACT**

<b>Test Date</b>	<b>Registration Deadline</b>
February 14, 2026	January 9, 2026
April 11, 2026	March 6, 2026
June 13, 2026	May 8, 2026
July 11, 2026	June 5, 2026

## JUNIOR SEMINAR Spring 2026

Lesson	Topic	Date	Location
1	<b>Junior Seminar Overview / Counselor Questionnaire / Jr. Meetings</b>	1/21 & 1/22 *days 2 & 3	Media Center
2	<b>Course Selection 26-27 / Naviance / College Board / College Search Tools</b>	2/2 & 2/3 *days 2 & 3	Media Center
3	<b>Finding Your Fit / Building Your List</b>	3/3 & 3/4 *days 2 & 3	Media Center
4	<b>Financial Aid Overview and Career Inventories</b>	3/26 & 3/27 *days 2 & 3	Media Center
5	<b>Teacher Recommendations / GPA Game</b>	4/14 & 4/15 *days 7 & 8	Media Center
	April Vacation 4/20-4/24; AP Exams - 5/4-5/15		
6	<b>College Essays</b>	TBD	English classes

\*All of these lessons will take place in the Media Center during your Wellness Class (unless otherwise noted)

\*Lessons 1-4 will be held on day 2 and day 3. Lesson 5 will be held on day 7 and day 8.

# Parent/Guardian To-Do List

(Students, we will share a sample student checklist for you in Junior Seminar!)

## Support:

- Remind your students to schedule their **Junior Meeting with their School Counselor by May 1, 2026**
- Complete AMSA Family Questionnaire by September 1:  
<https://forms.gle/NtXUm3r1mV62twWF8>
- Help students plan and register for standardized testing (ACT, SAT)
- Have a weekly “college free” night at home doing something fun with your child
- Help your student plan for college visits and college fairs
- Celebrate all successes; any acceptance is a good acceptance, even a probable/safety school
- Have a shared place for info about applications and financial aid (Naviance, Google Drive, paper folder on the kitchen counter, etc)

## Applications:

- Bring your student to any interviews, but refrain from attending/introducing yourself to the interviewer
- Be ambitious but realistic when giving input on the list of colleges your child is considering
- Read over essay, but do not rewrite it; colleges can tell
- Remember that admissions offices prefer to communicate directly with your child

## Financial Aid (some of this will not be applicable until senior year):

- Have a conversation with your child about what is realistic in terms of finances for college
- Use Net Price Calculators with your child to estimate aid awards
- Determine if any schools on your child’s list require the CSS/Profile
- Attend MEFA Webinars about financial aid, talk to your student’s financial aid offices, and/or meet with your student’s School Counselor
- Gather tax documents necessary to fill out financial aid forms
- Help track financial aid deadlines
- Complete FAFSA
- Complete CSS/Profile if applicable
- Complete any additional institutional forms
- Investigate scholarship opportunities through your employer or other community organizations

## Junior Seminar Schedule and Topics (\*subject to change)

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