My JUNIOR YEAR FINANCIAL AID Checklist

AUG- DEC

ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE PLANNING

- ➔ Take challenging courses in core academic subjects and stay on track to complete state-required curriculum for college admission requirements. Colleges look for:
  - ✶ Challenging coursework
  - ✶ A strong GPA
  - ✶ Involvement in extracurricular activities such as sports, volunteer work, or church
- ➔ Request a catalog and admission information about a variety of colleges and universities
- ➔ Go to college fairs and college-preparation presentations by college representatives
- ➔ Explore career options and their earning potential in the Occupational Outlook Handbook at **www.bls.gov/oco**
- ➔ Sign up for the PSAT and practice, practice, practice

SCHOLARSHIPS

- ➔ Stay involved in school and community-based activities
- ➔ Dare to dream—take on a new leadership role
- ➔ Apply for institutional scholarships (Don't miss deadlines!)
- ➔ Review and apply for national scholarships at **www.fastweb.com** and **www.scholarships.com**

FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ Estimate my federal financial aid eligibility with the FAFSA4caster at **www.studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/estimate**

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SAT...ACT...PSAT

Helpful Hints to Score Well

- ✶ Register in advance to give yourself time to prepare appropriately
- ✶ Take advantage of test-prep opportunities through your high school, online, or through colleges
- ✶ Eat a healthy breakfast the morning of the test and get several good nights of rest in the days before the test

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JAN- MAY

ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE PLANNING

- ➔ Visit college campuses (and talk to Financial Aid while I'm there)
- ➔ Narrow my college choices to 5-7 schools
- ➔ Ask your teachers or community leaders for recommendations for professionals who you can job-shadow for a day
- ➔ Take the ACT and practice, practice, practice
- ➔ Talk to parents/family about my goals after high school

SCHOLARSHIPS

- ➔ Begin drafting a scholarship essay
- ➔ Ask teachers, counselors, and employers for recommendation letters to include with scholarship applications
- ➔ Review and apply for local scholarships geared toward juniors
- ➔ Review and apply for national scholarships at **www.fastweb.com** and **www.scholarships.com**

FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ Estimate college costs using each college's Net Price Calculator

JUNE- JULY

ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE PLANNING

- ➔ Visit college campuses and talk to Financial Aid while I'm there
- ➔ Narrow college choices to 5-7 schools
- ➔ Begin applying to colleges

SCHOLARSHIPS

- ➔ Prepare a second draft of your scholarship essay
- ➔ Visit **www.college.gov** and click on "how to pay" to see how other young people paid for college
- ➔ Review and apply for national scholarships at **www.fastweb.com** and **www.scholarships.com**

FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ Visit **www.college.gov** and click on "how to pay" to see how other young people paid for college
- ☐ Review **www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/guide** for different ways to pay for college
- ☐ Save money from my summer job to pay for college applications and college costs

Compliments of **www.kasfaa.org**

KASFAA

Kansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators