JUNIOR COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

Completing the tasks listed below will allow students to effectively manage and plan for the college application process in a timely manner.

JUNIOR YEAR AT PHS

- **Junior Seminar:** All juniors will be scheduled into a guidance seminar in the Spring with their counselor which will take place during Titan Time. During the seminar we will review the process to research careers they are interested in and colleges that offer the majors of their choice. Students will receive step-by-step instructions to complete the tasks listed below. Parents are strongly encouraged to review their child's progress and college & career considerations.
- **Research & explore** careers based on the cluster/pathways they are most interested in. - Students will review the "Plan of Study" related to the major they are interested in. This information should assist students with the course selection process. Students will research the skills & knowledge required, tasks & activities, employment outlook and wages.
- **Research & explore colleges** they may potentially be interested in based on type, location, admissions, athletics, majors, costs, special programs. Students will save their searches and use this information to create lists of colleges to research and schedule campus tours.
- **Students will use data collected in Scoir** to help determine their reach, target and safety schools based on their current GPA & PSAT scores and this information can be viewed using the Scattergram plots.
- **Students are strongly encouraged to share** the information reviewed in seminars with parents.
- Juniors should already have signed up for the **Guidance Junior Google Classroom.** The class code is: eeyg4po**.** Information, timelines, updates and more will be posted on this site throughout the remainder of their junior year and throughout their senior year of high school.

JUNIOR YEAR SPRING TO DO LIST

College Planning:

- Create a list of "colleges you are thinking about" in Scoir
- Read & Review the Program of Studies and thoughtfully plan out your senior year courses. Remember to check the Pathway Maps. Students should register for rigorous and challenging courses to create a competitive transcript

- Contact colleges and schedule campus tours. This can be done via the college website or by attending an in person or virtual college fair. Colleges like to know if interested applicants have toured their campus! Juniors get two excused absences for college visits during second semester.
- Thoroughly & thoughtfully complete the Student Brag Sheet under Surveys in Scoir. The Student Brag Sheet is what your teachers, and guidance counselor will use to write your letter of

recommendations. Compile a list of activities, awards, recognitions, community service, volunteer work, employment, sports, clubs and all extracurriculars and be prepared to include this information in your student profile. The more information you provide, the better your letter of recommendation will be.

- Think about 2 teachers you will ask for letters of recommendation. You should ask the teachers in person and you may ask in the spring, but you will need to follow up with the request in the fall. This is done in Scoir.

Standardized Testing:

- **Create a plan for taking your standardized tests & register for them.** It is recommended to take your standardized tests at least two times. Once in the spring and a second time in the summer/fall. **If you qualify for "low income benefits" please see your guidance counselor for a fee waiver.*
    - o **SAT:** Students should login to their Collegeboard accounts at www.collegeboard.org to register.
    - o **SAT Spring dates:** March 14, 2026
      May 2, 2026
      June 6, 2026
    - o **ACT**: Students should create an account and register for the ACT at: www.actstudent.org
    - o **ACT Spring dates:** February 14, 2026
      April 11, 2026
      June 13, 2026
      July 11, 2026

Student Athletes/NCAA:

- Any student that is considering playing sports at a Division I or Division II college must complete the NCAA Clearinghouse online registration at: www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. This is required to ensure the student meets NCAA eligibility requirements.

JUNIOR YEAR SUMMER TO DO LIST

You are strongly encouraged to complete the tasks listed below prior to the start of your Senior Year. This will assist you in managing your time and keeping the college application process from becoming overwhelming and meeting deadlines in a timely manner.

- Narrow your list of "colleges I am thinking about" to approximately 6-10 schools which you will apply to during your senior year. These colleges should be moved to "Colleges I am applying to" in Scoir.
- Create a Common Application account at www.commonapp.org in August and/or download the school specific applications that are required by the colleges you will be applying to.
- Review the Common Application essay prompts and any school specific supplemental essays that may need to be written. You can view the essay prompts here: https://www.commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts
- Compose a rough draft of your college essay.
- Create a list of activities and/or a resume in Scoir and start completing your "Brag Sheet in Scoir" . It will benefit you to have a list of activities, sports, extra-curricular activities, community service, volunteer, employment prepared to assist with completing college applications.
- Register for summer/early fall SAT and or ACT test. It is recommended to test late summer/early fall for students applying early action/early decision to their colleges.