



Junior Year Overview

Outcomes

- Students will know appropriate times to complete tasks throughout their Junior year.
- Students will know how to utilize resources provided to assist in the postsecondary planning process.
- Students will know steps needed for continuation of postsecondary planning through summer leading into Senior year.

Junior Timeline



Junior Counseling Curriculum

- Postsecondary Planning & Standardized Testing
- Financial Fit
- Course Planning
- Understanding Postsecondary Requirements

Junior Timeline



Fall Activities

- Attend College Visits (*The PARC*)
- Favorite Schools on SchoolLinks
- Register for AP Testing (*if applicable*)
- Make Sure Academics are a Priority

Junior Timeline



Winter Activities

- Check Over Academic Requirements (*if attending college*)
- Select Courses for Senior Year
- Visit College/University Campuses
 - On-Campus College Visit Tips

Junior Timeline



Spring Activities

- Prepare to Take the State ACT
- Keep an Eye out for Junior-Specific Programming in Homeroom/Advisory
- Begin Asking Teachers for Recommendation Letters
(*check college requirements first*)
- Register for the [NCAA/NAIA Eligibility Center](#) (*if applicable*)
- Finish Junior Year Strong!

Junior Timeline



Summer Activities

- Continue Visiting Colleges
- Review College Application Essay Requirements
- Send your official SAT/ACT test scores to your colleges (if required)
- Narrow down potential college application list in SchoolLinks
- REST (Seriously!)

Junior Timeline





Supporting Your Junior

SchoolLinks Parent Observer Accounts

The screenshot shows the SchoolLinks Guardian Dashboard. At the top, there is a green header bar with a 'Join Your Alumni/Professional Network >' button and user icons for 'KN', email, notifications, help, and settings. A left sidebar contains icons for STUDENTS, COLLEGES, CAREERS, and FINANCES. The main content area is titled 'Guardian Dashboard' and features a profile card for 'Maya Junior' (12th Grade, SchoolLinks High School) and a list of sections: Planning (Course Plans, Personalized Plans, Goals), Accountability & Performance (Readiness Indicators, Test Scores), Student Activities (Assessments), College (College Lists & Favorites), Career (Certifications), Finance (College Costs), and Other Documents. A 'Choose a different section ^' button is located in the top right of the main area.

Join Your Alumni/Professional Network >

KN

Guardian Dashboard

Active Casefile Section
To Dos

Choose a different section ^

Maya Junior
Last Login an hour Ago

Grade
12th Grade

School
SchoolLinks High School

- Planning**
 - Course Plans
 - Personalized Plans
 - Goals
- Accountability & Performance**
 - Readiness Indicators
 - Test Scores
- Student Activities**
 - Assessments
- College**
 - College Lists & Favorites
- Career**
 - Certifications
- Finance**
 - College Costs
- Other**
 - Documents

Supporting Your Junior



Visiting Colleges

How to Execute an Effective Visit

1. Real-World Assessment

Walk around residence halls, dining facilities, and student hubs to build an authentic impression of daily student life.

2. Schedule Official Tours

Book tour slots via the Admissions Office portal early to secure a guided walkthrough with current students.

3. Register & Log Attendance

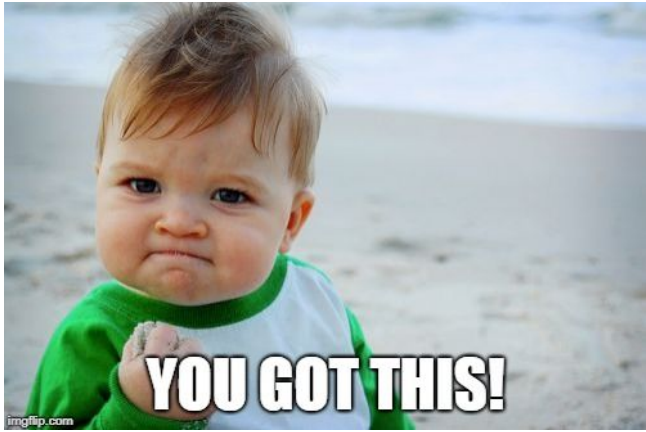
Formal check-in ensures your visit counts toward Demonstrated Interest in your application file.



Supporting Your Junior



Social / Emotional Support



- **Encourage** your student(s) during postsecondary planning and research
- **Be supportive and communicate openly** with your student(s)
- **Be patient** with your student(s) throughout this process - this takes time

Supporting Your Junior





Junior Responsibilities

Favorite Colleges in SchoolLinks

Search for a location, school, or program...

Search This Area

Filter By

School Type 2 Campus Test Scores My Chances VR Degree Type Sports Graduation Rate

Illinois Public Private

Graduation Rate: 73.7%

Christian Life College
Mount Prospect, IL | Private

Graduation Rate: 72.7%

DePaul University
Chicago, IL | Private

Graduation Rate: 72.7%

Illinois State University
Normal, IL | Public

Graduation Rate: 72.0%

Illinois Institute of Technology
Chicago, IL | Private

Graduation Rate: 71.0%

Lake Forest College
Lake Forest, IL | Private

Graduation Rate: 69.7%

Illinois College
Jacksonville, IL | Private

Map

Junior Responsibilities





Show Academic Progress

Make this a strong year! Junior year is vital for college applications because it represents the final full transcript admissions committees evaluate.



Emphasize Upward Trends

Colleges look for two key patterns: consistently high performance throughout high school, or a clear upward trend of continuous improvement over time.



Personal Best Matters

Great grades are defined uniquely for every student. Colleges don't expect straight A's—achieving your personal best (B's or C's) is a huge success!

Junior Responsibilities



Clean Up Social Media



Junior Responsibilities



- [NCompass](#)

Dist. 203 Postsecondary Planning Guide

- [In-School College Visits](#)

Instructions on how students can attend in-school college visits

- [On-Campus College Visit Tips](#)

Tips for students planning to visit college campuses

Additional Resources



Tonight

Sessions 2 & 3 Tonight

A few options for families to choose from to help with postsecondary planning [cite: 10]

**Sept 1 -
Oct 30**

In-School College Visits

Connect with admissions representatives directly at your school [cite: 10].

Sept 26

NACAC National College Fair @ Navy Pier (Chicago)

A national college fair, featuring more than 200 colleges & universities from across the country [cite: 10].

Sept 29

Navigating a Shifting Testing Landscape

An evening program at Naperville Central (6:30pm in Auditorium) to discuss college admission testing [cite: 10].

Oct 13

Illinois Regional College Fair @ Benedictine Univ. (Lisle)

Another college fair opportunity, bringing in additional colleges & universities from across the country [cite: 10].

Upcoming Opportunities

