

May Junior To-Do List

- Talk as a family about post-high school goals
 - Register for the SAT/ACT if testing
 - Begin test prep if planning to test
 - Explore college programs; attend virtual or in-person sessions
 - Review transcript in Skyward and save a copy (updated at the end of the year)
 - You will not have access to Skyward after June 30. Download a copy of the transcript at the end of the year, in the event it's needed over the summer!
 - Use Net Price Calculators to estimate college costs.
 - Explore college admissions & financial data: [College Scorecard](#)
 - Students taking the June ACT, please reach out to Ms. Sitko about computers for the test
 - Students taking the June SAT, you can hold on to your laptop to take the test. After the test, please turn your laptop in at the Central Administration Office.
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Visiting Colleges

When visiting campuses, consider:

- Academic Departments: Talk to professors & staff about majors and career support
 - Four-Year Graduation Rate: Will the school help students graduate on time
 - Retention Rate: High rates indicate student satisfaction
 - Challenge & Engagement: Is the school academically stimulating?
 - Middle 50% SAT/ACT & GPA: Helps gauge academic fit
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Deep Dive into a College

If your student wants to explore real data about colleges—such as admissions, retention rates, graduation outcomes, financial aid, and affordability—the [College Scorecard](#) is an excellent resource. This U.S. Department of Education website provides reliable, accurate information and also includes helpful details about alternatives to traditional four-year college pathways.

🔗 <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

SAT/ACT Information

- Check test dates and registration at:
 - www.collegeboard.org (SAT)
 - www.act.org (ACT)
- Dates are posted in Class Teams page under Post-Secondary Planning > Files and the HS Counseling webpage.

Helpful Notes:

- Fee waivers available for students on free/reduced lunch—see Ms. Sitko or your counselor.
 - No preference between SAT or ACT.
 - Research test-optional policies: FairTest.org
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ACT/SAT Test Prep Options

- [Khan Academy](#) (FREE SAT prep)
- [ACT Academy](#) (FREE ACT prep)
- [Penn State Beaver](#) – In-person SAT classes

- [3RPrep](#) – Virtual options
 - [Goldstein Test Prep](#) – SAT/ACT tutoring (in-person & virtual)
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Planning Your SAT/ACT Testing Dates

Wednesday, May 20 | 6:30 PM | online

Join Goldstein Test Prep for a free webinar on how to strategically plan SAT/ACT testing dates and preparation timelines. Topics include test formats, free prep resources, the best dates for first-time testers, and how to balance testing with extracurriculars. A live Q&A will be included.

[Click here to register](#)

Managing College Emails

- Create a dedicated email for college communications.
 - Filter emails into folders by school or topic.
 - Check emails regularly to avoid missing important information.
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Scholarships

- **Naviance:** Colleges > Scholarships & Money > Scholarship Search
- Scholarship sites: [Going Merry](#), [Scholarships.com](#), [Fastweb](#), [Scholarship America](#), [Finaid](#)
- College payment resources: [My Smart Borrowing](#), [College Costs](#)

Scholarships for Juniors:

- **Horatio Alger Scholarship** – need-based, supports students overcoming obstacles
 - **QuestBridge** – full scholarships for high-achieving students with financial challenges
 - **Cameron Impact Scholarship** – full-tuition, merit-based, Class of 2026 | Early deadline: May 21, 2025 | Regular: Sept 3, 2025
 - **College Board Opportunity Scholarships** – practice SAT & win scholarship money
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NCAA Eligibility

- For athletes aiming to play Division I/II sports: [NCAA Eligibility Center](#)
 - Submit official transcript via Naviance & official test scores
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College Resources

- [Georgia Tech Admission Blog](#) – College search guidance, humorous & educational
 - [College Essay Guy](#) – College essay guidance, tips, and resources
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Post-Secondary & Summer Opportunities

[CCAC Skilled Trades Academy](#) – FREE program for ages 14–18 at CCAC West Hills Center

[CCAC Early College Programs](#)

Students can take select credit and non-credit courses virtually at no cost and receive a stipend. This program is part of CCAC's Early College initiative, funded by the Bank of New York Mellon, and is designed to expand access to college and career readiness opportunities. ☎ 724-325-6675  earlycollegeprogram@ccac.edu

[Southwest Pennsylvania AHEC –Summer Health Career Academy](#)

This five-day program, hosted at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, is open to students interested in healthcare careers. Participants will hear from healthcare professionals and take part in hands-on simulations.

- Takes place in July
- Application deadline: **May 3, 2026**
- Confirmation email sent upon receipt of application

 Questions: HCA@SouthwestAHEC.org

UPMC Sports Medicine Student Aide Workshop

 Saturday, May 30 | 8:00-4:00

 Lemieux Sports Complex

This workshop is for students interested in athletic training and sports medicine careers. Students will learn through lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on activities.

Topics include:

- Career exploration
- Anatomy and evaluation
- Therapeutic exercise and modalities
- Concussions
- Spine boarding & equipment removal
- Medical terminology
- Taping and bracing

 Registration required

 Cost: \$40 per student | Limited to 50 spots

Phipps EcoLeader Academy

A free, seven-week program at Phipps Conservatory for motivated high school students interested in environmental science and sustainability. Students explore topics such as ecosystems, climate change, policy, and sustainability while building communication and leadership skills.

- Meets one afternoon per week (Wednesday or Thursday, 12:30–4:30 PM)
 - Participation stipend provided
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CMU Center for Architecture Explorations

This day camp provides a studio-like experience, emphasizing problem-solving skills through drawing, model making, and CAD. All camps are taught by students from the Architecture program. All camps take place at the Carnegie Mellon University School of Architecture, 9am-1pm.