

A CHECKLIST FOR

Preparing for College: Juniors

FALL

- Start your year off right by *talking with your school counselor about the year ahead*. Confirm that your courses will put you on the right track for college admission. Be sure to ask about test dates for the PSAT, ACT and SAT. You'll need to register up to six weeks ahead of time.
- Start developing a resume- a record of your accomplishments, activities, and work experiences. This will be an important part of your college application.
- If you haven't participated in many activities outside of class, now is the time to sign up. Consider clubs at school, team sports, leadership roles, or involvement in your church or other community group.
- Take the PSAT seriously. Taking the test as a junior will qualify you for some scholarship consideration and identify you as a potential applicant. When you receive the results (usually in December), review them to learn more about your strengths and weaknesses. Discuss the results with your family and school counselor.
- Begin to prepare for the ACT and/or SAT. There are many free resources on the Internet. If you can't find the best websites, ask your counselor. You should plan to take at least on these tests in the spring and again next fall during your senior year.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- Research colleges and programs related to your major of choice and interests
- Meet with your counselor again to develop your senior year schedule.
- Register for a spring offering of the SAT and/or ACT.
- Ask your counselor about summer opportunities on college campuses. These can be a great way to find out what college life is all about and make you a more attractive candidate for admission to colleges.

MARCH/APRIL

- Apply for scholarships
- Start requesting letters of recommendation
- Apply for a summer job or internship (looks great on college applications!)
- Develop a list of 10-15 colleges that are of interest to you.
- Start setting up campus tours

SUMMER

- Get your FSA ID and gather tax documents for financial aid. Before you can fill out your FAFSA, you need to get a username and password (AKA your FSA ID)
- Visit colleges and make appointments to talk with admission counselors.
- Refine and update your resume
- Make a file to manage your college application data (deadlines, application status, essay questions, etc.). Applications open August 1st!