

Junior Year College Timeline Checklist

Fall (September – November)

- ☐ Sign up and take the PSAT (October). Strong scores may qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship.
- ☐ Look into different careers and how much they usually pay to help connect majors to job opportunities.
- ☐ Learn how to choose a college that fits you and begin comparing your options.
- ☐ Go to college fairs, info sessions, or take campus tours to start building your college list.
- ☐ Make a list of colleges you might want to apply to and note their admission requirements.

Winter (December – February)

- ☐ Review your PSAT results to identify strengths and areas to improve before taking the SAT/ACT.
- ☐ Start looking for scholarships you can apply for now – some open early.
- ☐ Create your StudentAid.gov account so you're ready for senior year financial aid applications.

Spring (March – April)

- ☐ Continue visiting colleges (many offer spring open houses).
- ☐ Start writing your personal statement (college essay) – draft early so you have time to revise.
- ☐ Meet with your counselor to confirm you're on track with graduation requirements and college readiness.

Late Spring & Summer (May-August)

- ☐ Decide if you're going to apply Early Decision, Early Action, or Regular Decision so you're ready for fall deadlines.
- ☐ Refine your college list into “reach, match, and safety” schools.
- ☐ Continue scholarship searches and keep a list of deadlines.
- ☐ Work on your personal statement and finalize drafts.
- ☐ Keep learning and building experiences (through jobs, volunteering, or summer programs).