

Countdown to College - Junior Year

Plan your path to education success with these monthly activities:

August

- Review your high school courses and activities. Colleges look for challenging course work, strong grades, and extracurricular activities.
- Consider signing up to take a Practice SAT and Practice ACT. Visit the College and Career Center.
- Review your PSAT scores, then set up and link your [Khan Academy](#) account and your [College Board](#) account for study information.
- Review [National Merit Scholarship qualifications](#).

September

- Research colleges in [Naviance](#) and browse college websites for information.
- List ten colleges in Naviance in which you have interest of attending. List these in 'Colleges I'm Thinking About.'
- Talk to your parents and your AHS College and Career Advisor about your list of colleges. Make decisions together about which ones to eliminate and which ones to keep on the list.
- Attend College Night at AHS and other college fairs in the area.
- Attend College Q&A Night and Financial Aid Night at AHS.

October

- Take the PSAT.
- Research Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) program, and Dual Credit through Collin College for courses you might like to take.
- Continue researching and applying for scholarship opportunities in [Naviance](#). If you are not yet eligible to apply for a scholarship of interest, list it in your [Naviance](#) journal and visit it again when you are eligible. Journal is located under the 'about me' tab.
- Attend Eagle Soar to College at AHS.

November

- Complete the FASFA4caster. It will provide you with an estimate of how much it may cost you to attend college.
- Talk as a family about how much you can afford to spend for your education.
- Learn about eligibility requirements for federal and private student loans.

December

- Study for final exams.
- Update your resume in [Naviance](#).

January

- Plan for the next round of tests; SAT and/or ACT. Links are listed in [Naviance](#).

February

- Investigate private scholarships and other financial aid programs. Check with your parents' employers, local membership organizations, and programs related to your intended course of study.
- Make the most of spring break by visiting your colleges of interest.
- Register and study for the SAT and the ACT. Links are listed in [Naviance](#).

March/April

- Now that you have visited the colleges on your list, narrow your choices to no more than five. Schedule an admissions interview and an overnight stay. Take time at each school's financial aid office to collect information.
- Begin preparing essays for admission and scholarship applications.
- Take the SAT and/or the ACT.
- Mark your calendar with the dates for future tests.

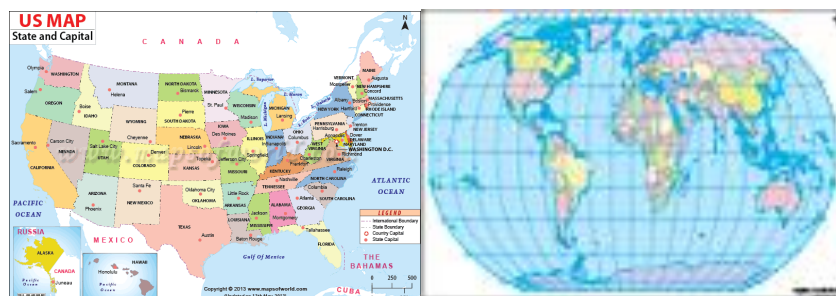
May

- Take the SAT and/or the ACT.
- Mark your calendar with the dates for future tests.
- Plan summer enrichment activities.
- Study for final exams.
- Update your resume in [Naviance](#).

June

- Continue researching and applying for scholarships in [Naviance](#). More scholarship applications will become available after your junior year.
- Start summer enrichment activities.

Junior Year Roadmap to College



- 1) Get to know your College and Career Advisor (in the College and Career Center)
- 2) Update your [Naviance](#) profile information
- 3) Research colleges through Naviance and choose those to which you want to apply
- 4) With each college you choose, know the following:
 - a) What is the preferred method for application:
 - i) The Common Application (Home Page- click on “Document Resources” and then your Senior folder)
 - ii) The Coalition Application (Home Page- click on “Document Resources” and then your Senior folder)
 - iii) The Apply Texas Application (Home Page- click on “Document Resources” and then your Senior folder)
 - iv) The school’s own application (found on school’s website)?
 - b) Deadlines at each school for:
 - i) Application
 - ii) Scholarship (may occur prior to application deadline)
 - iii) Financial Aid
 - iv) Housing (may occur prior to application deadline)
 - c) Letter(s) of recommendation:
 - i) How many does the school allow/require – 1, 2, 3, none?
 - ii) What type(s) – teacher, counselor, other... combination?
- 5) If you are a student athlete, please register with NAIA at www.playnaia.org and/or NCAA Eligibility Center at www.eligibilitycenter.org
- 6) Take the ACT/SAT college entrance exam(s) (CollegeBoard.org; ACTstudent.org)
- 7) Send ACT/SAT scores directly to schools by entering their school code at the time you register for the ACT/SAT
- 8) Request transcript(s)
 - a) See the Transcript Clerk in the College and Career Center
 - b) Complete the FERPA form (download from Naviance or pick up in College and Career Center)

- c) Payment of \$2.37 may be made through SchoolPay (click on “View All From My School” which is located at the bottom of the Home Page)
 - d) Transcripts will not be printed until payment has been submitted.
 - e) Allow at least 48 hours from time of payment to pickup
- 9) FAFSA4CASTER/FAFSA (FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- a) As a junior, complete the FAFSA4CASTER (gives you an estimate of how much/type of financial aid the government will give the student and for how much of the cost the student will be responsible)
 - b) *Your **senior** year*, the FAFSA application is available October 1; Complete your FAFSA application as soon as possible. (this figure will be exact, not an estimate)
- 10) Scholarships (non-specific to schools – local/regional/state/other may be found in Naviance under the colleges tab)
- 11) College Rep Visits – See when reps from your colleges are on our campus. Plan to meet with them during this time. (found under “Colleges” tab. Then “Research Colleges” and then College Visits.)
- 12) Dual Credit Courses – [Academic Planning Guide](#) / Visit the College and Career Center
- 13) AP/IB Courses – [Academic Planning Guide](#) / Visit the Advanced Academics Office
- 14) ASVAB/Military - sign up for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery to discover your strengths. (found under upcoming college visits in the colleges tab.)
- 15) Destination Wings – College and Career Center - Sponsored college campus visits