



COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE for ...

Grade 11 JUNIORS

While the road to college speeds up significantly during your junior year, the *formal* “kick-off” to the process does not occur until the spring semester. However, there are things that you can do now in preparation for the spring. The single most important thing to keep in mind is that this year is important and deserves respect. Plan to study hard! Since most applications are submitted in the fall of senior year, this will be the last full year of grades that most colleges and universities will use when evaluating your applications.

FALL

- **Plan to study hard!** This is the last full year that most colleges will see when reviewing your applications. Stay involved with your extracurricular activities.
- **Stay on track with your classes and grades.** Meet with your counselor to review course selection and GPA. Even if your grades haven't been that good so far, it's never too late to improve. Colleges like to see an upward trend.
- **October — Take the PSAT.** It's good practice for the SAT. Scores can be important, as they are used to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Competition.
- **Register for or Reactivate NAVIANCE** accounts.
- **Continue gathering college information.** Speak with college representatives who visit our school, go to college fairs, attend college nights; use an online college finder and search top college lists.
- **Register for the SAT or ACT** offered in the spring of your junior year.
- **Make sure you're meeting any special requirements.** If you want to play Division I or II sports in college, start the certification process and check with your counselor to make sure you're taking a core curriculum that meets NCAA requirements.

- **Complete NAVIANCE Assignments** as per deadlines.
- **End of December/ January — Receive & evaluate results of the PSAT.** Consult your college counselor to

SPRING

- **February/ March —Meet with your college counselor to “officially” begin the process.** Discuss ways to improve your college preparation and selection processes.
- **Prepare for standardized tests.** Find out if the colleges you are interested in require the SAT, ACT, or SAT Subject Tests, TOEFL or IELTS. **Register** to take the tests you need. Most juniors take them in the winter or spring. You can take them again in the fall of your senior year if

consider whether an SAT prep course would be a good investment.

- **Learn about colleges!** Talk to friends, family, teachers, and recent grads. List college features that interest you.

you’re unhappy with your scores.

- **Complete NAVIANCE Assignments** as per deadlines.
- During course registration in the early spring, make sure you **sign up for challenging courses** for your senior year. Don’t take an easy senior year—colleges want to know that you’ve challenged yourself during your entire high school career.
- **April - Make plans for getting teacher recommendations** (especially from teachers who may leave).