

Junior Year College Check List

Fall

- _____ Meet with your school registrar (Verne Sherman) to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfilled college admission requirements. **DONE AT REGISTRATION**, but stay on top of it!
- _____ Go to college fairs and college-preparation presentations by college representatives. **Highland College Fair—October 10, 2019**
- _____ Take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test (**PSAT/NMSQT**) **October 30**. You must take the test in 11th grade to qualify for scholarships and programs associated with the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- _____ Take the **ACT December 15**—You should plan to sit for the ACT at least twice prior to senior year. Research shows that your best scores are more often on your last 2 tests. You should plan to have this test taken prior to the first semester of your Senior year.
- _____ Take the **ASVAB** (required for all Juniors) on **Sept, 17**. This test helps pinpoint educational strengths for career placement.

Spring

- _____ Use the U.S. Department of Labor’s scholarship search careerinfonet.org to find scholarships for which you might want to apply. Some deadlines fall as early as the summer between 11th and 12th grades. So prepare now to submit applications soon. Fastweb.com is another recommended site to view searching for scholarships that can be for Juniors and Seniors.
- _____ OPTIONAL: Sign up for an appointment to meet with Melissa Weisner, HA Guidance Counselor, to take an assessment that will help point towards possible careers based on personality strengths and work environment preferences, etc. This can also be done in your senior year.
- _____ OPTIONAL: Set up an appointment to meet with Melissa Weisner, HA Guidance Counselor, to review fields of interest for a career and sign up for possible job shadowing. This can also be done in your senior year.

Summer between 11th and 12th grades

- _____ Narrow down the list of colleges you are considering attending. If you can, visit the schools that interest you.
- _____ Contact colleges to request information and applications for admission. Ask about financial aid, admission requirements, and deadlines.
- _____ Decide whether you are going to apply under a particular college’s early decision or early action program. Be sure to learn about the program deadlines and requirements.

Early Action

A college admission policy that allows applicants to apply and receive notice of their admission early. Applicants accepted under early action are not under a binding agreement to attend that school and may submit applications to other schools.

Early Decision

A college admission policy that allows applicants, who commit to attend that school, to apply and receive notice of their admission early. If the applicant is accepted, he or she agrees to attend that school and must withdraw all other applications.

_____ Use the *FAFSA4caster* (fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm) financial aid estimator, and compare the results to the actual costs at the colleges to which you will apply. To supplement any aid *FAFSA4caster* estimates, you might receive scholarships if you apply. Your goal is to minimize the amount of loan funds you borrow. **The Free Application for Federal Student Aid** (known as the **FAFSA**) is a form that can be prepared annually by current and prospective college students (undergraduate and graduate) in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.

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Adapted from: studentaid.gov