

JUNIOR YEAR CALENDAR

AUGUST-MAY

Visit colleges at HFA College Corner, college receptions, college fairs, etc.

Commit to academic excellence during what is traditionally your toughest year. Colleges base admission on semester grades from Freshman through Junior years.

Establish an email address that is professional sounding so as to correspond with college officials. Remove any illicit or inappropriate personal material from public websites.

Visit colleges on every break or if during school complete College Visit Form (available in Counseling Office) and turn it in to the HFA Front Office before each visit. Remember that you must provide proof of your visit to the HFA Front Office once you return to school.

AUGUST-DECEMBER

Take the PSAT (in October) to be considered for possible scholarships through the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Retake Naviance interest inventories and personality assessments; note changes and trends.

Get an early Financial Aid estimate (Financial Forecaster, *FAFSA4caster*, at www.fafsa.gov).

Create a list of colleges you want to consider and compare their information on admission, housing, and financial aid via Naviance.

Check Naviance scholarship listings and roster of Enrichment programs for school-year & summer opportunities.

Sign up for scholarship search engines; fastweb.com, zinch.com, etc.

JANUARY-MAY

Take tests. Register to take the ACT (www.actstudent.org) and the SAT I or II (www.collegeboard.com).

ALL JUNIORS should take at least one nationally standardized test during their spring semester. Juniors should take the SAT II this spring for the subject areas in which they are currently taking advanced courses; e.g., if taking AP U.S. History, you should take a spring SAT II in U.S. History.

Teacher Recs: Most colleges require two teacher recommendation letters – one from a teacher in the math/science area and one from a teacher in the humanities (English, social studies, foreign language, etc.). **Select and ask two teachers to write a rec for you**, make sure to say ‘Do you feel that you could write me a *positive/good* recommendation?’ A recent teacher or a teacher that you have had for multiple years or in an extracurricular fashion in addition to in class typically makes for a strong supportive letter of recommendation.

MAY

AP Exams

JUNE

LAST CHANCE to take the SAT I or II and the ACT

SUMMER

Summer programs – Find something to do this summer be it a program, a job, etc.

Research colleges on-line for admission, housing and financial aid information. Take extensive comparative notes of institutions that you are interested in using books and online resources, e.g., Naviance, collegeboard.com, ecampustours.com, collegeconfidential.com, et al.

Write college application essays. Work on refining your college essays using the prompts provided in the Senior Questionnaire, these *are* the essay topics on the Common Application. Some typical essay topics:

- Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
- Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.
- Describe a character in your life, in fiction, a historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.
- Describe what you would gain from the education experience at this institution and what you would contribute to the community.