

Junior Year

Fall

- Review your coursework and activity plans
- Keep your grades up!
- Keep in mind that colleges look for the following:
 - Challenging coursework
 - Performance in courses
 - Well-rounded extra-curricular activities, i.e. employment, volunteer work, activities in school and in the community
- Division I and Division II perspective athletes need to adhere to course requirements for NCAA eligibility
- Start to identify colleges you would like to attend
 - Obtain dates and locations of college fairs in our area.
 - Attend College Fairs in September, October, and November at Lenape
 - Start visiting college websites: find out admission requirements for both admission to the college AND admission into the specific program you wish to study.
 - Find out from the colleges you are interested in, what tests they require for admission.
 - Keep the lines of communication open with your parents about college and in which ones you are interested.
- Sign up in school to take the PSAT offered in October (by taking this as a junior you become eligible for consideration for National Merit Scholarships).
 - Receive and review your PSAT scores to identify which areas you may need to improve upon around December.
- Research the SAT/ACT sample test to determine which test accommodates your testing needs.
 - Companies that specialize in test preparation, such as Kaplan, often host free opportunities to sample each test.
 - Evaluate SAT/ACT Prep options, as needed.
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- Attend, with your parents, college and financial aid night at the high school, generally held in November or December.

Winter

- Continue your college search. Gather as much information as you can i.e. majors offered, price, financial aid available, private/public, etc. Keep in mind that the college should match your personality, GPA and test scores.
 - Start to visit colleges that interest you.
 - Visit college websites for information and begin to evaluate their admission criteria and programs.
- Athletes planning to play Division I or Division II sports need to register with the Eligibility Center.
- Schedule courses for next year that will continue to challenge you and that will meet college and NCAA requirements. Individual meetings with your counselors will be held during the months of January and February.
- Coordinate college entrance testing
 - Register (online) to take SAT I Reasoning test or ACT Test in Spring

- Consider registering for and taking SAT II Subject tests. Some highly selective colleges will require a specific number of tests or a specific test for different college programs.
- Continue to study for the SAT/ACT.
- Continue to keep your grades up!
- Register to take the Advanced Placement tests for AP courses you are currently taking. Registration can be done in Guidance during January.
- Begin looking for summer employment opportunities in your career area of interest.

Spring

- Take the SAT or ACT college entrance exam
- Consider registering for and taking SAT II Subject tests. Some highly selective colleges will require a specific number of tests or a specific test for different college programs.
- Take the AP exams associated with the courses in which you are enrolled.
- Talk to teachers about writing letters of recommendation for you.
- Student athletes, if you plan to participate in college sports and you have not registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center you must register prior to summer. Once registered, print out and sign the Transcript Release Form and turn in to the guidance office. Initial eligibility will be determined based on your final junior year transcript.
- Look into summer employment if you have not done so already.

Summer

- Read over the summer and review your math skills. This will help in preparing you for the SAT in fall of your senior year.
- Obtain a summer job if you have not done so already. Try to find one that may be related to your career interests. Consider becoming a volunteer.
- Enrich yourself by volunteering or getting an internship in an area of interest.
- Schedule college visits.
 - During your visit make sure you meet with an admission representative and a financial aid officer to find out what type of aid is available.
 - Get a feel for what works for you i.e. large, small, private, and public.
 - Begin to narrow your college selection to the colleges you are truly interested in applying.
 - Call ahead to schedule appointments with the financial aid and admissions counselors. If you would like to meet with an academic advisor of a program you are interested in attending, call ahead to schedule an appointment. Find out if you can sit in on a class and/or spend a night in a dorm. Make it a point to speak with students about the college. These things will help you gather additional information about the college.
- Submit any new information to your Guidance i.e. test scores, report cards, etc.
- Practice writing online applications by filling out rough drafts of each application (do not submit practice form). Focus on the essay portion and decide how you want to present yourself.
 - Have others review your essays for grammar, punctuation, readability and content.
 - Decide if you are going to apply to a college's early action or early decision programs (please remember that applying in one of these ways will have conditions attached. These conditions must be followed.)

Senior Year

- Work hard all year, second-semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility.
- Stay involved in activities, employment and/or volunteering.
- Continue to challenge yourself academically.

Fall

- Meet with your guidance counselor to make sure you have all the credits needed to get into your college of choice.
- Register for and take the October/November SAT I Reasoning test, SAT II Subject tests and/or ACT test.
 - Issue your official test scores to the colleges through the test agencies' website
- Continue to visit colleges.
 - Meet with the admission representatives when they visit the high school for the college fairs in September, October, and November.
- Begin applications to colleges
 - Narrow your college list to include safeties, good fits, and reaches
 - Begin the on-line applications
 - Give any recommendation forms to the appropriate teacher and or counselor
 - Early Action and Early Decision applications are usually due between Oct. 1 and Nov. 1st. Keep this in mind.
 - Update your counselor of your progress and coordinate transcripts being sent
- Attend college and financial aid night at the high school generally held in November or December.
- Pursue scholarships
 - Review emails for scholarships compiled by the Guidance Office.
 - Begin to search for scholarships using websites and search engines
- Find out from colleges what specific financial aid forms/applications they require.
- Some private schools may require that you register for CSS/financial Aid PROFILE at this time.
- If not completed earlier all prospective Division I and Division II athletes must register with the NCAA Initial Eligibility Center
 - Issue your official test scores to the NCAA through the test agencies' websites
- Be sure that your first quarter grades are good.

Winter

- Complete financial aid forms
 - Submit FAFSA paperwork online soon after January 1st as possible. Remember there are college financial aid deadlines so FAFSA should be completed ASAP!
 - Maintain copies of your records
 - Your college may have it's own Financial Aid form. Be sure to complete the forms by the deadlines that the college has set.
- Courses continue to count throughout your senior year. Admission to college is contingent upon successful completion of your senior year.
- The school will automatically issue your midyear grades to each college that you have submitted a transcript release form.
- Continue to work on scholarship applications.

- Register to take the Advanced Placement tests for AP courses you are currently taking. Registration can be done in Guidance during January.

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Spring

- If you haven't received an acceptance letter from the college to which you applied, contact the admission department.
- Compare acceptance letters, financial aid and scholarship offers.
- Submit tax forms to the financial aid office if requested.
- If you have not received your SAR report contact Federal Student Aid information Center.
- Begin to search for summer employment opportunities.
- Submit local scholarship information by deadline.
- Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the deadline.
- Notify other schools that you will not be attending.
- Keep track of deadlines at your chosen college regarding housing, financial aid, etc.
- Submit additional applications for additional student and/or parent loans.
- Take AP tests.
- If you were placed on a waiting list for a college and have decided to wait for an opening, contact the college and let them know you are still very interested.
- Inform the guidance department of the college you will be attending in order for your final transcripts to be sent to them by completing the Senior Survey.
- Write thank you notes to the people who wrote you letters of recommendation.
- If you plan on competing in Division I or II college sports, submit your Transcript Release form to the guidance office in order for your final transcript to be sent to NCAA Initial Eligibility Center.

Summer

- Complete any remaining student aid forms.
- Participate in any summer orientation programs for incoming freshmen.
- Start planning a budget for college.
- Learn to complete tasks independently i.e. laundry, money management, etc.
- Shop for items you will need for college.