

College Planning Calendars

Junior Year

SEPTEMBER

- Explore your interests, values, goals and academic record. What does this tell you about your college major, career goals and type of college that may be right for you?
- Students can register for the optional Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).
- If interested in the arts, visit the *NACAC Performing And Visual Arts College Fair* in Chicago
- Consider *Directions College/Career Night*, a fair emphasizing post-secondary options for students with special needs.

OCTOBER

- Visit the NACAC College Fair at McCormick Place in Chicago
- Participate in career-related experiences (Career Nights, Career Days and Career Treks to explore future careers).
- Attend the District 211 College Fair
- Native Spanish speakers can visit the *D211 First Generation Symposium with Spanish translation*.

NOVEMBER

- Participate in junior guidance to learn what to look for in a college and how to use Naviance in your college search.
- If interested in playing collegiate athletics, go to the *D214 Student Athlete Night*.

DECEMBER

- Parents are invited to the *JHHS Parent University on College Planning* to receive an overview of the college planning process.
- Finalize senior year classes with your counselor, keeping in mind your college or career requirements.
- Register for JHHS SAT test prep class.

JANUARY

- Familiarize yourself with the SAT, and SAT Subject tests. Determine if and when you should take each test.
- Register for any winter or spring ACT, SAT and/or SAT Subject Tests in addition to the State funded SAT taken in April.

FEBRUARY

- Begin the college search in earnest. Identify the factors that are important to you in choosing a college. Two year or four year? Location? Cost? Public or private? Programs? Social environment? Consult your college counselor, Naviance, school websites, video, and materials in the CCC to make a tentative list of schools.
- Regularly check Naviance for a list of college representatives visiting the JHHS College/Career Center. Use these visits to add to your college list.
- Participate in junior guidance to learn about the college admissions process.
- Attend the D214 *"Ask the College"* Night to learn about different types of colleges.
- Plan college visits on days off.

MARCH

- Attend the *D214 Financial Aid Seminar* for juniors.
- Register for the SAT Subject Test(s) if required by your college choices.
- Visit colleges over spring break.

APRIL

- Attend the *District 214 College Fair*.
- Set an appointment with the college counselor to develop a list of college matches.
- Visit college campuses on days off.
- Use CCC resources and Naviance to research summer alternatives, including courses, internships, jobs, travel, and activities.

MAY

- Take AP exams if appropriate.

JUNE

- Finish the year out strong! For some schools, this will be your most important semester.
- Analyze and understand your test results. Register and prepare for fall ACT or SAT if needed.
- If you are a college-bound athlete, register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Decide which colleges you can visit this summer. Ask colleges about summer open house programs, tours, and interviews.

JULY/AUGUST

- Participate in summer opportunities; travel, school, and work - Try to do something meaningful.
- Answer the Counselor Rec Survey in Naviance.
- Finalize your Activities Resume.
- Work on rough drafts of college essays.

Senior Year

AUGUST

<input type="checkbox"/> Finish college research, compare schools, and finalize your college application list.
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend Senior Forum to learn about the college application process.
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend Senior Guidance to discuss college planning with your counselor.
<input type="checkbox"/> Create a system to monitor college deadlines and required application pieces.
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend the <i>JHHS Parent University</i> with your parents for an overview of the college application and financial aid process.

SEPTEMBER

<input type="checkbox"/> Start submitting transcript requests to the CCC Assistant. Observe all deadlines.
<input type="checkbox"/> Have test scores sent to colleges from the testing agencies.
<input type="checkbox"/> Begin college applications and draft college essays.
<input type="checkbox"/> Make requests for teacher and counselor recommendations, ONLY if needed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Check Naviance or listen to morning announcements for a list of college representatives visiting JHHS this fall, so you can meet with schools of interest.
<input type="checkbox"/> If interested in the arts, visit the <i>NACAC Performing And Visual Arts College Fair</i> and <i>National Portfolio Day</i> , both held in Chicago.
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend the <i>Directions College/Career Fair</i> for postsecondary options for students with special needs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend the <i>D214 Senior Financial Aid Night</i>

OCTOBER

<input type="checkbox"/> Remind your parents to attend the <i>District 214 FAFSA Completion Night</i> .
<input type="checkbox"/> Apply for Financial Aid through FAFSA.com
<input type="checkbox"/> Visit the <i>NACAC College Fair</i> at McCormick Place in Chicago
<input type="checkbox"/> Participate in career-related experiences (Career Nights, Career Days and Career Treks to explore future careers).
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend the <i>District 211 College Fair</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Send in early decision, early action, and priority applications.
<input type="checkbox"/> Visit colleges while they're in session. Send thank you notes after any interviews.
<input type="checkbox"/> Native Spanish speakers can visit the <i>D211 First Generation Symposium with Spanish Translation</i>

NOVEMBER

<input type="checkbox"/> Finish all essays and aim to submit all applications by Thanksgiving. Submit transcript requests to the CCC Assistant. Observe all deadlines.
<input type="checkbox"/> Keep your grades up; colleges do look at semester grades.
<input type="checkbox"/> Participate in the <i>D214 NCAA Night</i> if interested in college athletics.
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend senior guidance to learn about financial aid and scholarships.
<input type="checkbox"/> Start your scholarship search and watch for early deadlines.

DECEMBER

<input type="checkbox"/> Submit final applications to the CCC Assistant.
<input type="checkbox"/> Contact colleges if you are interested in arranging an alumni interview.

JANUARY

<input type="checkbox"/> Request seventh semester transcripts to be sent to schools requiring them.
<input type="checkbox"/> If accepted under a binding early decision plan, withdraw all other applications.
<input type="checkbox"/> Check all your colleges to check they have received all your application materials.
<input type="checkbox"/> If you are thinking of a GAP year after high school, attend the GAP Year Fair at New Trier High School.

FEBRUARY

- Continue to pursue scholarship options; watch due dates.
- Keep your second semester program strong. Colleges will be looking!

MARCH

- Submit tax forms to the Financial Aid Office of colleges that request them.
- Make sure the colleges you've applied to have received the info from your FAFSA.
- Start looking for a summer job.

APRIL

- All colleges should respond with an admission decision by the first week of April. If you filed your FAFSA early in the year, you should also receive financial aid award letters from each school.
- Decide which college you wish to attend. Revisit if necessary; participate in "admitted student visit days". Go to any local info meeting to which you are invited.
- Waitlisted? Write a letter to colleges if you wish to remain on their wait list or to let them know you've made another choice.

MAY

- Mail in a deposit to ONE college by May 1. Sign and return financial aid award letter to acknowledge that you accept the aid offer.
- Inform other colleges to which you were admitted of your decision to go elsewhere.
- Send in your housing contract.
- Attend senior guidance and complete the Naviance survey indicating where you want your final transcript sent.
- Send a thank you to teachers, counselor, or anyone who helped you with your applications.
- Take AP Exams if appropriate.
- Study for final exams. These grades still count!!!

JUNE

- Celebrate your high school graduation!
- Attend all first-year student advising days, open houses, orientation programs, and registration days offered by your college.
- Spend time with your parents and siblings! You'll miss them next year!

***BEST WISHES AS YOU BEGIN
YOUR COLLEGE YEARS
COME BACK AND VISIT...
WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU!***