John Hersey High School
What’s Next?

Planning for Life After High School
Your Student Services Staff:

College & Career Center Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Chiakulas</td>
<td>Post-Secondary Counselor</td>
<td>718-4846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agnes Knott</td>
<td>College/Career Center Assistant</td>
<td>718-4862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carole Schwichtenberg</td>
<td>Registrar</td>
<td>718-4964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Lazarz</td>
<td>Assessment Coordinator</td>
<td>718-5002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Allen</td>
<td>Career Advisor</td>
<td>718-4838</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Generalist Counselors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robin Bialeschki</td>
<td>718-4854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stacey Bowen</td>
<td>718-4863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaclyn Deppen</td>
<td>718-4860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Galarza</td>
<td>718-4853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Mo</td>
<td>718-4856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigette Muck</td>
<td>718-4857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaghan Waller</td>
<td>718-4872</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Testing Code Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code Description</th>
<th>Code Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JHHS ACT/CEEB School Code</td>
<td>140-097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JHHS Test Center Code</td>
<td>195320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPLORING POST HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPLORING YOUR INTERESTS, ABILITIES, VALUES</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHOOSING CAREERS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPUTERIZED CAREER SEARCHES</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAREER EXPLORATION</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST-HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COLLEGE PLANNING</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELECTING A COLLEGE – FINDING THE RIGHT FIT</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE ADMISSIONS SELECTIVITY</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE SEARCH</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE VISITS - QUESTIONS TO ASK</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE COMPARISON WORKSHEET</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STANDARDIZED TESTING: ACT, SAT AND OTHERS</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT/ACT CONVERSION</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THE APPLICATION PROCESS</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE COLLEGE APPLICATION</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPLICATION FEES, TRANSCRIPTS &amp; TEST SCORES</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECOMMENDATIONS</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSAYS &amp; ACTIVITIES RESUME</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERVIEWS</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA AND COLLEGE ATHLETICS</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLEGE PROGRAMS</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL AID &amp; SCHOLARSHIPS</strong></td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL AID</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOLARSHIPS</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR</strong></td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNIOR YEAR</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENIOR YEAR</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APPENDIX</strong></td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEBSITES</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE ADMISSION COMPETITION CATEGORIES</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOSSARY</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exploring
Post High School Options
Exploring Your Interests, Abilities, & Values

In order to make decisions about what you want to do after high school, you must first take time to reflect on who you are in terms of your interests, abilities, values, goals, etc. Here are some questions that might help you focus on your unique identity.

**Interests**
- What classes do you enjoy most? In which subjects are you most successful? Which subjects do you like least?
- What are your interests and hobbies outside of school? What talents or skills do they use?
- What activities do you find fun? If you had unlimited funds and time, what would you do?
- Do you enjoy working with machines or tools? Do you like to repair things or take things apart and see how they work?
- Do you enjoy experimenting with ideas or projects?
- Do you enjoy leading others, making decisions, or getting things started? Or do you prefer to follow the lead of others?

**Abilities and Talents**
- What are your academic strengths and weaknesses? It is important to honestly evaluate your grades and test results in relation to your effort in school.
- Do you work well with people and enjoy being around others when you work or do you prefer working more on your own?
- Are you persuasive? Do you enjoy talking with people and influencing them to do or buy something?
- Do people find you to be a good listener and/or a good teacher?
- Are you imaginative, inventive or creative?
Job Values

Creativity - Do you desire a job where you can use your imagination and be inventive?

Time – Do you want a job that allows you flexibility and/or time to pursue other interests?

Environment – Is it important for you to work inside or outside; in physical or non-physical jobs?

Variety – Do you want to be able to do many different and interesting things?

Prestige – Do you want a job that provides respect, is highly visible, and helps you feel important?

High achievement – Is it important that you are able to succeed at a job that is difficult?

Salary – How much do you need to earn for the lifestyle you desire?

Independence – Would you like to do work that allows you to be your own boss?

Work with your hands – Do you want to use your hands, machines, or tools to make or repair things?

Life Values

Do you hope to have a family someday? What are your values relating to family time, money, parenting, childcare, etc.?

What motivates you?

How do you plan to make a contribution to your community and to the needs of others?

Do you have plans for healthy recreation and exercise?

What legacy would you like to leave behind?
Choosing Careers

After exploring your interests, abilities, talents, and values, you are ready to consider potential careers. Identifying possible careers helps high school students select courses, activities and part-time jobs where they may be successful and happy. It also helps students consider how much and what type training or formal education will be required after high school. Choosing a career should not be viewed as a “permanent commitment” but rather a process. As students take a class, job or field trip, they may change their career plans. Ruling out careers that you do not like is just as valuable to discovering what you do like. We begin this career exploration process in classroom guidance sessions during sophomore year. Listed below are a number of resources available at John Hersey High School to further assist your career search process.

Computerized Career Searches

Career Cruising
Career Cruising is a web-based career resource to explore future careers, plan future education and research colleges. The Career Matchmaker of this website is a great way to match interests and skills to various careers.

Career Cruising website:  www.careercruising.com
Students should come to the JHHS Career Advisor for their personal login information.

Naviance
Naviance is a web-based college and career research and planning tool available to JHHS students with numerous career exploration features. The Do What You Are online questionnaire allows students to determine their personality type and discover potential careers and college majors that would be personally rewarding. The Career Interest Profiler helps students match their interests to potential careers. The Cluster Finder allows students to find careers that match their interests, abilities and personal qualities. Finally, the Explore Careers and Clusters feature allows students to explore specific career job descriptions, required training, and potential wages.

Naviance website:  http://connection.naviance.com/jhhs
Students login with their GAPPS username and six-digit student ID number as a password. Parents log in with a self-defined email and password.
**Occupational Outlook**
Career information can be found in the Occupational Outlook Handbook available at: [www.occupationaloutlookhandbook.net/](http://www.occupationaloutlookhandbook.net/) or [www.bls.gov/ooh/](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/). For each career, these websites describe the job, required knowledge and skills, work environment, educational requirements, wages, and job outlook.

**Career Exploration**

Listed below are some of the career resources available for JHHS students. Students should also listen to morning announcements and visit the College and Career Center for more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Trek</th>
<th>A Career Trek is a career-focused field trip to explore occupations of interest. Touring the worksite, talking with professionals and participating in hands-on activities helps enrich students' understanding of career fields.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career Visits</td>
<td>Similar to college rep visits, Career Visits are 1-period opportunities for students from all grade levels to hear from someone in a particular career field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>Individual internship experiences can be arranged for a semester or summer. These internships allow a student to volunteer within an organization, observing typical daily duties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Opportunities</td>
<td>Career related opportunities within various companies, such as workshops, conferences, events and summer opportunities. For more information visit <a href="http://www.necsspartnership.com/">http://www.necsspartnership.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Nights</td>
<td>District 214 hosts several Career Nights each fall to allow students to meet with representatives from different occupations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual Credit Courses</td>
<td>Harper College offers vocational courses to local high school students. Most of these courses allow students the option to earn both high school and college credit. Contact your counselor for more information on currently available programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College and Career Center</td>
<td>Many print and online publications and resources are available to assist students in their career exploration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A VERY IMPORTANT POINT TO REMEMBER!

The choice of a career is YOURS!! It is not the choice of your parents, friends, teachers, or any other advisors.

It is important to discuss your choice with the significant people in your life to gain the benefit of their insight and experience, but the ultimate choice is yours!

Your career should be fun and rewarding. Spend some time and energy exploring your options now to make a good choice.

**Future Plans**

Which path after high school will best help you meet your needs and reach your goals? How much formal education and/or training will you need?

And remember that there are different pathways you can take to reach the same career or educational goal. For example, you can start at a two-year college and transfer to a four-year college or start in the military and then go to a two or four year college.
Post-High School Options

College or University
Colleges and universities offer four-year bachelor’s degrees in most the arts and science fields (the B.A. and B.S.degrees), as well as pre-professional programs and other specializations. Many also offer graduate and professional degrees.

Community College
Community colleges offer students different types of degrees:

- **Certificate Program**: a 1-2 year career program designed to prepare the student for immediate entry into a specific career. Examples include Heating, Ventilation & Air Condition or Interior Design.
- **Associate of Applied Science**: a degree awarded upon completion of a two-year career program and designed to prepare the student for immediate entry into a specific career field. Many of these programs have internships, which help students get on-the-job training.
- **Associate of Arts and Associate in Science**: two-year degrees designed for students who will transfer to a four-year college or university to complete a four-year bachelor’s degree.

Harper College in Palatine is the local community college serving most Hersey students.

Vocational/Technical
Vocational/Technical schools offer short-term training for a wide variety of specific jobs, such as beauty, tourism, or auto repair. Certificates for some programs may take only a few weeks while others may take up to two years to complete. Students and parents should investigate and visit any schools being considered for: accreditation, licensing, facilities, cost, quality of instruction, reputation, stability & financial aid. You may find some of these same programs are offered at community college for a lower cost.

On-the-job Training or Apprenticeship
For some careers, such as masons, electricians, or home health aides, the best preparation is to work under highly skilled workers. These apprenticeships allow you to gain experience in the field, determine if you have an interest in the career, and create a network of contacts, while earning a salary. The Career Advisor has resources to help you locate employers, and prepare for the application process.

Military
The military may be a good option for those wishing to obtain specialized training and/or college financial assistance. Each branch of the military visits Hersey twice per year. Check morning announcements for dates and times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Air Force</th>
<th><a href="http://www.airforce.com">www.airforce.com</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td><a href="http://www.goarmy.com">www.goarmy.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coast Guard</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uscg.mil">www.uscg.mil</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Guard</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nationalguard.com">www.nationalguard.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marines</td>
<td><a href="http://www.marines.com">www.marines.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td><a href="http://www.navy.mil">www.navy.mil</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
College Planning
**Selecting a College – Finding the Right Fit**

There are nearly 4,000 colleges and universities in this country, with a wide variety of features to serve diverse student interests. With so many choices you may wonder how to find a college that is a “good fit” for you. Although there is no right or wrong way to research colleges, many students find it helpful to visit a few schools that differ in size, location, academic programs, or selectivity so see which characteristics are important to them. Listed below are the 5 P’s of Post-Secondary Planning - criteria to consider in selecting a college:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSON</th>
<th>PEOPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is YOU!</td>
<td>Student body: Do your personality and values mesh well with the other students?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are identified by many things: transcript (including rigor of courses, grades, GPA), ACT scores, co-curricular activities (in and out of school), learning style (visual, auditory, kinesthetic, or combination), extenuating circumstances (illness, child(ren)), and personality to name a few.</td>
<td>Fraternities and sororities: Is there a Greek system on campus? Is a high percentage of students in fraternities or sororities?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Religious orientation: Is the institution affiliated with an organized religion? Does the academic and social life reflect this?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sports/Activities: Does the school have the sports or extra-curricular programs you are interested in? How easy is it to join?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admissions: How selective is the school? Does your coursework match the school’s requirements for admission? Is your GPA and ACT score typical of accepted students?</td>
<td>Size of the school: Would you like to attend a large, medium, or small school? Visit each type before narrowing your choice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum: Does the college offer the major that interests you? Is there a core curriculum required and what does it look like? What research or internship opportunities are available to you in your field of interest?</td>
<td>Geographical location: Do you want to attend college in the Chicago area, in Illinois, or out of state? What transportation is available?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Size of the community: Is the campus setting urban, suburban or rural? What are the advantages/disadvantages for you?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost: What is the total cost of attendance for one year (tuition, room, board, books, travel, etc.)? Can you afford this school?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remember, do not rule out a school based on the listed price. What is important is the cost AFTER scholarships and financial aid that may be available. Families can estimate the true cost of a college by using the net price calculator on the school’s website, as well as the FAFSA Forecaster. You should have an honest and open conversation with your family well before senior year so make sure you agree on what your family can afford.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
College Admissions Selectivity

Many colleges are now using a holistic approach to admissions, looking at factors such as extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, interviews and essays. At other schools, your grade point average (GPA) and standardized test scores are the primary determinant of admission. As an applicant, these factors can help you see whether the school is a “good fit” academically. You want a school where you are challenged, not overwhelmed.

For many years the standard for measuring college selectivity was the use of the “mid 50%” statistic. This statistic reports the range of GPA and test scores (ACT or SAT) for the middle 50% of incoming freshmen. You should compare your credentials to the “mid 50%” averages for schools on your list. If you have not taken an ACT or SAT yet, it is possible to estimate an anticipated score based on the results of your PLAN or PSAT test scores. Depending on whether your GPA and scores are above, within or below the mid 50% range determines whether the school is a safety, target, or reach school. You should be sure to include safety schools that you want to attend on your college list.

You can also use Naviance Scattergrams (below) to determine how selective a college is. These scattergrams analyze application data from JHHS student applications over the past 5 years. This allows you to compare your grades and test scores to past JHHS students who applied to a school. You can then assess whether a school is a safety school, a good fit, or a reach school.
**College Search**

**Online College Search Websites**

Once you have a sense of what characteristics are important to you, online college search websites are a great way to find colleges that meet your criteria. The following are links to two popular college search websites:

- **Naviance** – [http://connection.naviance.com/jhhs](http://connection.naviance.com/jhhs)
  Login with your student GAPPS username and six-digit student ID number

- **Career Cruising** – [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com)
  Username: d214-(insert GAPPS username)
  Password: six digit student ID number

Here are a few ways you can use Naviance to create your list of colleges:

**College Lookup** – Find in-depth information on admissions standards, financial aid availability, offered majors, and student life at individual colleges you are researching. You can link directly to college websites and in some cases take a virtual tour of campus.

**College Search** – This interactive survey allows you to develop a list of colleges based on what is important to you, such as college majors, location, religious affiliation, and favorite activities or sports. If you use Naviance to find colleges that meet your search criteria, you should save those schools under the “Colleges I’m Thinking About” section of your Naviance account.

**College Match** – Once you have several schools listed in “Colleges I’m Thinking About”, this matching feature will identify other schools that may be similar to the ones you have chosen.

**Scattergrams** – This amazing tool allows you to see how your SAT/ACT and grade point average compares to other JHHS students who have been accepted or denied admission to a particular college.

**Visit Schedule** – Check out what college admissions officers are visiting JHHS and use these visits to learn more about schools of interest.

**College Maps** – Find schools of interest and see their location displayed on interactive maps. This is great for planning college visits!
Other college search resources:

**College and Career Center (CCC)**
The College and Career Center (CCC) has a variety of college and career-related books, brochures, videos and online tools. The College & Career Center staff is available to answer questions and help you with each step of the college search.

**College Websites**
College websites are the most up-to-date place to find specific information on colleges. Look up admissions criteria, academic majors, cost, size, setting and more. Use the admissions blog to interact with current students.

**College Reps**
Over 120 admissions representatives visit JHHS during the school year. This is a great way for you to meet in a small group with reps from your colleges of interest. Rep visits occur mainly September-November and again in January-April. College rep visits are posted outside the CCC, on Naviance, on social media, and in the daily announcements. You are must obtain a pass from the CCC in advance of the visit and get your teacher’s permission to be excused from class. Turn in the completed form to a CCC staff member when you meet with the rep.

**College Night Programs**
The D214 post-secondary counselors plan many specialized college night programs throughout the year. A few offered in past years include: “Ask The College” Night, Financial Aid Night, and a Student Athlete Night.

**Campus Visits**
A campus visit is the best way to see what a college is like. Check the college’s website for information about visiting the college. It is best to call the college 1–2 weeks before your visit to find out what types of tours, sessions and activities may be available to you. During your visit, try to meet with someone from the admissions office or attend an information session. Ask if they can arrange for you to meet with a professor or representative from the department in which you are interested. Take a tour of the campus, talk to students, have a meal in the cafeteria, and pick up copies of the student newspaper. Some colleges also can arrange for you to sit in on a class. If you want to stay overnight in a residence hall, ask if that can be arranged.

**College Fairs**
The D214 post-secondary counselors host a College Fair each March/April with representatives from over 200 campuses across the US. This is a great way to begin your search. Also, the National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC) usually hosts a Chicago fair in the fall.
College Visits – Questions to Ask

General Information
- How many students at this school?
  What is your smallest class size? The largest?
- What percentage of tenured faculty members teach freshmen courses? Do graduate students teach undergraduates?
- Do faculty maintain office hours? How easy is it to see a professor for help?
- What academic support services are available? (Writing, language, math labs?)
- What percentage of students graduate in 4 years? 5 years?
- Is there a career center and what services does it offer?
- What percent of students go on to graduate school? What percent of students have jobs within 6 months of graduation?

Student Life
- What percent of your students live on campus? Live off campus? At home?
- What is there to do on campus on weekends? Do students stay on campus?
- Are your dorms co-ed? By floor or by wing? Are the bathrooms also co-ed?
- How are roommates chosen? Can I room with a friend?
- Is it possible to get by without a car? Is there public transportation?
- Does the school have your favorite extracurricular activity? Is it easy to join?
- Are there fraternities or sororities? What percent of students participate?
- Where are the cafeterias located? How is the cafeteria food? How many meals a week are in the meal plans? What about eating between meals?
- Are special diets available, such as vegetarian, vegan, or kosher diets?

Financial Aid
- What is the total estimated cost for next year including tuition, room, board, fees, books and travel?
- What are the financial aid application procedures and deadlines?
- Will applying for financial aid affect the admissions or wait list decisions?
- How do the financial aid procedures differ with early decision applications?
- What scholarships are available?
- Are there installment plans or other financing options?

Other questions
- What differentiates your school from similar schools?
- What personal qualities do students here tend to have?
- What are the key issues on campus?
- What steps is the school taking to make the campus safe?
- If you could change something about this school, what would you change?
# College Comparison Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparative Criteria</th>
<th>CAMPUS 1</th>
<th>CAMPUS 2</th>
<th>CAMPUS 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COLLEGE NAME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LOCATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Location &amp; size of nearest city</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Transportation required (Air, train, car)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENVIRONMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Setting (urban, rural)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Co-ed, male, female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Enrollment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Religious affiliation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Deadlines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tests required</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Average test scores, GPA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Required application materials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SELECTIVITY RATING FOR YOU:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Safety, Good Fit, Reach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACADEMICS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Majors that interest you</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Classes taught by professors or assistants?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Largest class size/Typical class size</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Academic resources available</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Percent of returning freshmen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Graduation rate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COLLEGE EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tuition, room &amp; board</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Estimated total budget</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Application fee &amp; deposit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL AID</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Deadlines/Required forms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• % of students receiving aid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Scholarships available</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOUSING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Residence hall availability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Residence hall requirement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Room types and sizes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Food Plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Percent of students living on campus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clubs, organizations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Varsity, club, intramural sports</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Typical weekend activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IMPRESSIONS:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Personal reaction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Rank/Order of Preference</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Standardized Testing: The SAT, ACT, & More

An important part of preparing for the college application process is to take standardized college entrance exams. Most colleges require either the ACT or SAT for admissions purposes. Some schools may not require a test at all. For a full list of test optional colleges, go to www.fairtest.org. Be sure to check with individual colleges as to which entrance exams are required for admission.

PSAT
The preliminary SAT test scores are NOT reported to colleges but are predictive of a student’s expected SAT test range and are useful in course placement. The PSAT 8/9 is given to 8th or 9th graders. The PSAT 10 is given to 10th graders. Each PSAT has two sections: an Evidence-based Reading/Writing section and a Math section. The PSAT 8/9 scores range from 120-720 for a maximum score of 1440. The PSAT 10 scores for each section range from 160-760, adding up to a maximum score of 1520.

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)
The PSAT/NMSQT is an optional PSAT 10 offered only in October and is open to sophomores and juniors. PSAT scores are NOT reported to colleges but are used to forecast a student’s SAT score, prepare for the SAT test and is also the first step in the National Merit Scholarship Program. The highest scoring juniors will be designated as National Merit semi-finalists, asked to take an SAT Reasoning Test and fill out an application in order to be considered for the National Merit scholarship.

SAT
All JHHS students will take an SAT test in April of their junior year as a high school graduation requirement. The SAT test is an achievement test measuring knowledge in three content areas: Evidence-based Reading & Writing, Mathematics and an optional Essay. Students receive two section scores, Mathematics and Evidence-based Reading & Writing. Each section receives a score on a scale of 200-800 for a maximum of 1600 points. Students who take the optional SAT Essay will receive three scores (Reading, Analysis and Writing) each scored on a 2-8 scale. The SAT is one of two standardized tests that can be submitted as part of the admissions process.

Advanced Placement (AP) Test
These are three hour comprehensive examinations given in May, based on a college level course taken in high school. Students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses prepare and register for these exams within their AP classes. The most selective schools may consider AP scores in admissions decisions, but the scores are primarily used for college credit and/or placement into higher-level college courses. College websites generally contain
information on which AP exams they will accept, the score required for college credit, and the college courses for which you will receive credit.

### SAT Subject Tests
SAT Subject Tests measure how well you have mastered a particular high school subject. The selective colleges that require SAT Subject Tests usually ask you to take two to three of these tests, one of which must be math. Each test is a 60-minute multiple-choice exam. There are 20 different subject tests and students may register for up to three on any given test date. Tests are given on most of the same dates as the SAT Reasoning Test. It is recommended that students interested in applying to selective colleges take SAT Subject Tests upon completion of a course in a subject that they do not plan to continue (e.g. biology, chemistry, U.S. history).

### ACT Test
The ACT is curriculum-based and tests four areas: English, mathematics, reading, and scientific reasoning. Sub-scores ranging from 1-36 will be given in each of these areas as well as an overall composite score. The ACT test also includes an optional writing test. Students can register for a national testing date at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

### College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
These exams provide students of any age the opportunity to demonstrate college-level achievement through a program of exams in undergraduate college courses. CLEP tests are given on several college campuses each year, including Harper Community College. Depending on the scores, the students may earn college credit or advanced placement in the institution.

### Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
The TOEFL is a computer-based test used to measure the English proficiency of students who have been speaking English for less than 5 years. This test is used in the admission process in addition to the ACT or SAT requirement. For more information, go to [http://www.toefl.org/](http://www.toefl.org/).

### Test Prep
The best preparation for the ACT and SAT is to take challenging high school core courses and to work hard to learn the material. A variety of test preparation materials (books, online, classes, etc.) are available if you desire further preparation. John Hersey High School offers both PSAT and ACT Test Preparation classes. Please see the Hersey website for more information.
## SAT/ACT Conversion

Concordance between ACT Composite Score and Sum of SAT Critical Reading and Mathematics Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT CR+M (Score Range)</th>
<th>ACT Composite Score</th>
<th>SAT CR+M (Single Score)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1600</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1540–1590</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1490–1530</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1440–1480</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400–1430</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>1420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1360–1390</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1330–1350</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1290–1320</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1250–1280</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1210–1240</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1170–1200</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1130–1160</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1090–1120</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1050–1080</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1020–1040</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>980–1010</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>940–970</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900–930</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>860–890</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>820–850</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>770–810</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>720–760</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>670–710</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>620–660</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>560–610</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>510–550</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Application Process
The College Application

While the counselors and College Career Center staff are here to support all JHHS students, it is the STUDENT who is responsible for submitting all applications, fees, essays, official test scores, and supplemental materials to colleges. If you are planning to attend a two or four year college, the application generally consists of the following:

**Required materials:**
- The application itself (paper or online)
- Application fee or fee waiver
- Transcript
- Official test scores (ACT or SAT)

**Supplementary materials required by some colleges:**
- Secondary School Report or Counselor Form
- Teacher or counselor recommendations
- Personal statement or essay(s)
- Activities Resume
- Interview

The Application

Most colleges prefer that students file electronic applications. These are usually found on the college’s website under the admissions tab. If you prefer to file a paper copy of a college’s application, you may download these from the college website and mail the completed paper application to the college.

There are almost 900 colleges and universities that now accept the “Common Application”. If you are applying to more than one Common Application School, you can fill out the Common Application one time and use it to apply to multiple colleges. Some of these schools may require their own supplemental form in addition to the Common Application. For a complete list of Common Application Schools and the Common Application forms, visit the website: https://www.commonapp.org.

Regardless of the type of application you file, please:
- Make a careful list of the materials required to complete the application, such as an official transcript or counselor recommendation form. Be sure to request these supplemental materials with plenty of time for them to be completed and mailed by the application deadline date.
- Fill out the application carefully and completely. If you are working online, save your application regularly, so that you do not loose your work.
- Pay close attention to the application deadlines and be sure to submit ALL materials by the deadline date.
Application Fee or Fee Waiver

Most paper applications require a fee with the application. As an incentive to file electronic applications, some colleges either waive or reduce the application fee for filing online. If you file an electronic application and there is a required fee, you may need to provide a credit card payment. If you file a paper application, you may have the option of paying by credit card or check. Students on Free and Reduced Lunch or public assistance are eligible for a fee waiver and should stop by the College Career Center (CCC) for the required paperwork.

Transcript

Most college applications require a student’s official transcript sent directly from the high school’s Registrar. You will have the chance to review and approve your transcript at the start of senior year. Once approved you can request transcripts through Parchment (unless your counselor uploads it to Common App). At peak periods it can take weeks to process requests. Please allow at least three weeks for a transcript to be sent.

Official Test Scores

John Hersey High School does not send standardized test scores or include them on the transcript. It is the student’s responsibility to send official test scores to colleges. At the time of registration for the ACT, SAT, or SAT Subject Tests, you may specify up to four colleges to receive your scores as part of your test registration fee. You can also request to send ACT or SAT score reports to additional schools at a cost of $12 per school. After the test is taken, you can request your official test scores be sent to colleges at the same price through the websites:

For ACT: www.actstudent.org
For SAT or SAT Subject Tests: www.collegeboard.com

When reporting ACT scores, you can choose to submit test scores from a specific testing date or submit all your test scores. Students often prefer to send only their tests with the highest composite scores. However, some selective schools require ALL scores to be sent. Other colleges use the highest test score when multiple scores have been sent. And other colleges combine the highest sub scores from multiple tests to compute a higher composite score, known as a “superscore”. For these reason, it may be a good idea for students to send all test scores. Check with each college to determine their policy. All SAT scores are automatically sent to colleges unless you pay extra for Score Choice at the time of registration.
**Secondary School Report, Counselor Form or Recommendation**

Your application may require a Secondary School Report, Counselor Form, or letter of recommendation (rec) from your counselor. If the application requires counselor materials, complete the Counselor Rec Survey in Naviance FIRST. Once this survey is complete, follow the instructions within your college application to invite your counselor to prepare application materials on your behalf. Usually, these are email invitations. Please remember to waive your right to review these letters and allow at least 15 school days for your counselor to write a good letter of recommendation.

**Teacher Recommendations**

Some colleges require teacher recommendations and for those that do, it is an essential part of the application. *Here are a few tips:*

- **Select a teacher of a core academic subject or class related to your career interest or major.** Colleges prefer Junior or Senior year teachers. It is best if the teacher knows you very well as a student – your interests, abilities and motivation.

- **Ask the teacher in person if they can honestly give you a positive rec.** If they hesitate or have reservations, you should ask someone else.

- **You can ask one teacher to provide recommendations to multiple schools.** Complete a Teacher Recommendation Request Form to list all your colleges that need recommendations, their due dates and whether they are Common Application Schools. If your teacher prefers to send recommendations by mail, provide them with a stamped envelope addressed to each school where you would like a letter sent.

- **Ask the teacher what they need to write you a letter or recommendation.** They may interview you or ask you to complete a JHHS Student Information Form for Teachers to get an in-depth description of your academic strengths, interests, goals and future plans. This form is available in the College Career Center and in the Naviance Document Library.

- **Colleges look most favorably on recommendations you have waived the right to review (i.e., sent to the college directly from the person writing the rec. letter).**

- **Allow at least 15 school days for a teacher/counselor to write your letter.**

- **Send a thank you note to the teacher when the application process is over.**
Personal Statement or Essays

Not all colleges require essays, but when they do, it is an important part of the admissions application. The essay or personal statement allows colleges to see how well you communicate and, more importantly, allows them to see you as an individual. For this reason, there is no one formula for writing a good essay. Instead view this as your chance to communicate your personality, character, feelings, motivations, strengths and passions. Honesty, self-awareness, and creativity are all elements of a strong essay.

Questions will vary widely from college to college, so plan to spend some time considering essay options and topics, and for drafting and editing your essay. The summer before senior year is a great time to work on your college essay. It is best to have a draft of your essay completed by the time you return to school. *Some key things to keep in mind:*

- Use the written assignment to express your uniqueness. Do not include information already listed on the application or transcript.
- Follow the directions! Answer the question that is asked or write about what they are looking for. If there is a limit on the number of words to provide, adhere to it.
- Use a style that is comfortable to you, using your own words and style.
- Use correct grammar, punctuation and spelling. Have your essays proofread by your family, teachers or tutors in the Writing Well.

Activities Resume

An activities resume is a brief, easy-to-read, summary of your activities, honors, and work experience. In some cases, the resume can be used in lieu of completing the activity section on a college application. Other schools only recommend attaching your resume when the application does not provide enough space for you to list, in greater detail, a description of your activities and experiences. Some colleges/universities require that you complete the activities section of the application, so please read the instructions carefully!

Resume Writing Tips:

| List your information in reverse chronological order with the most recent listed first. |
| Organize your activities into categories (e.g. Athletics, Clubs, Awards, Work Experience, etc.) |
| Try to keep the resume to one page. |
| Appearance is very important. Use blank space, font size, bold, italic and underline features, and indent or tab features to create an outline effect. You can use the resume-writing feature in either Career Cruising or Naviance to help you with formatting your resume. |
| Be sure to proofread for errors. |
Sample Activities Resume

John P. Senior
12345 Main Street
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
(847) 555-1212
JSenior5678@stu.d214.org

Education:
John Hersey High School  Class of 2021
1900 East Thomas Street
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

G.P.A.: 4.4/4.0 weighted
SAT: EBRW: 580, Math: 620

School Activities:
Soccer:
  Team Captain Grades 12
  Most Valuable Player Grades 11, 12
  Varsity Grades 10, 11, 12
  Junior Varsity Grade 9
Service Over Self:
  Thanksgiving food drive, Chair Grade 10
  Club Member: Chess Team Grade 9 - 11

Volunteer Service:
Northwest Community Hospital Volunteer Grades 11, 12
  (4 hrs/week)
Church – Youth Group Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
  (2 hrs/week)

Work History:
Target, Cashier 06/2019 – present
  (8 hours/week)
Arlington Hts Park District, Lifeguard 06/2017 – 08/2018
  (40 hours/week in summers)

Summer Programs:
Stanford University Summer Enrichment Summer 2019

Awards:
  Academic Honor Roll Grades 9, 10, 11
  National Honor Society 2020-2021
  Illinois State Scholar 2021
**Interviews**

The interview is used in the admission process at some colleges. If an interview is *required* or *recommended*, it can be a significant factor in the admissions decision. Interviews may be conducted by a representative of the admission staff or by an alumni living in your community. The interview is an opportunity for you to highlight your uniqueness, personality, and what you can bring to the college. A few interview tips are listed below, but you can also ask Mrs. Davis to conduct a mock interview to prepare you for this process.

- Make a good first impression. Dress neatly, be punctual, and shake hands initially and at the end of the interview. Make eye contact and listen attentively.

- Be prepared. Consult the college’s materials and website so that you can ask appropriate questions portraying your interest in the school.

- Show genuine interest and enthusiasm for the college.

- Thank the interviewer for his/her time and ask for business card or contact information. Follow up with a thank you note.

**NCAA and College Athletics**

**NCAA**

The NCAA, or National Collegiate Athletic Association, was established in 1906 and is the athletics governing body for more than 1280 colleges, universities, conferences and organizations. NCAA schools are divided into three divisions. Division I and II members may offer athletics scholarships, while Division III schools may not. For more information, visit [www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org](http://www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org).
NAIA

The NAIA, or National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, founded in 1937, includes nearly 300 smaller colleges. A list of these colleges may be found at [www.naia.org](http://www.naia.org). Over 90% of NAIA colleges offer athletic scholarships.

All students who want to become either NCAA or NAIA athletes should attend the D214 NCAA Night in November and read the D214 Student-Athlete Handbook. These resources have valuable information about the recruitment and application process.

**Special Education College Programs**

There are many colleges that are able to serve students with special needs. The range of services and associated costs vary widely. Students should work closely with their case manager and college counselor as they begin planning for college to determine the specific needs of the student and each college or university's ability to provide these services. Students may want their IEP, 504, or other documentation made available to their chosen college. The College Career Center staff can guide them on how and when to advise each school. Special accommodations for ACT and SAT testing need to be arranged well in advance of the test date. Students looking for Special Education College Programs are encouraged to pick up a copy of *Directions: A College Guide for Students with Special Needs* from the CCC and attend the District 214 Directions College Fair.
Financial Aid And Scholarships
Financial Aid

As college costs continue to soar, financial aid and your expected family contribution toward college costs have become an increasingly important part of the college selection process.

What is financial aid? Financial aid is the combination of resources (loans, work-study or grants) that supplement what the family is expected to contribute toward the costs of a college education. Financial aid can be divided into two basic categories: merit aid and need-based aid. Merit aid can be based on both academic and personal achievements, while need-based aid is determined by the family and/or the student’s ability to pay the costs of education. Financial need is determined by subtracting the government calculated family contribution from the cost of education:

\[
\text{Cost of Attendance - Expected Family Contribution (EFC)} = \text{Financial Need}
\]

**Cost of Attendance (COA)** - The total amount it will cost a student to go to college for an academic year, including tuition and fees, room and board, books, supplies, transportation, costs associated with a disability, and miscellaneous expenses. The college sets this figure.

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** - An amount determined by a formula established by the Federal Government that indicates how much of a family's financial resources should be available to help pay for school.

It is important to know that your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is the same regardless of the cost of the college. Because expenses at colleges vary and the amount the family is expected to pay remains the same, you could be eligible for more aid at a higher cost college than a lower cost college. Additionally, merit and athletic scholarships may also be offered based on the student’s academic success or special talents and are usually not related to financial need. **For all these reasons, students should not be deterred from applying to schools with higher tuition costs if they are a good fit.** You can get an early estimate your expected family contribution and financial aid eligibility by using the Net Price Calculators posted on individual college websites.

If you qualify for either merit or need-based aid, colleges and universities will mail a letter summarizing financial aid packages, usually in April of senior year. The best contact each family has while applying for financial aid is the financial aid administrator at each of their student’s colleges.
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):
The first step in securing financial aid and scholarships is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is used to determine a student’s eligibility for federal grants, loans, and work-study aid. The FAFSA is also used by Illinois to determine state aid and by colleges and universities across the country as the starting point for determining school-specific financial aid and scholarships. The online FAFSA application is the fastest and most accurate way to process your information. ALL students applying to college should complete the FAFSA between January 1st of senior year, when the form becomes available, and mid-February. This is the time when available funding is the greatest.

- **FAFSA** – Free Application For Federal Student Aid - [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

- **FAFSA PIN** – The student and one parent must obtain a personal identification number (PIN) to be used in lieu of a signature on the electronic application. The PIN can be obtained as part of the FAFSA application process.

- **Student Aid Report (SAR)** – A report generated after completion of the FAFSA. This report summarizes the family financial situation.

- **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** – The EFC is reported on the SAR. The EFC is a number that measures your family’s financial strength. It is subtracted from the Cost of Attendance at the school(s) to which you have applied to determine financial need.

The CSS Financial Aid PROFILE
The CSS PROFILE is the financial aid application service of the College Board. Some private and highly selective colleges may require this form in addition to the FAFSA to help them award nonfederal student aid funds.

- **CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE** – [https://profileonline.collegeboard.com](https://profileonline.collegeboard.com)

Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)
ISAC provides financial assistance for college education in Illinois colleges through the many grant, scholarship, loan, and prepaid tuition plans it administers.

- **Illinois Student Assistance Commission** – [http://www.collegeillinois.org](http://www.collegeillinois.org)
Scholarships

Scholarships are a great way to secure additional funds for your education, since scholarships are “gift aid” that does not need to be paid back. Scholarships are awarded for athletic and academic talent as well as participation in such things as extracurricular activities, job experiences, and volunteer and community service. Some scholarships are based on personal information such as where you attended elementary school, your ethnic background or even your height!

Merit scholarships are offered directly from the college or university to students with high academic credentials or special talents. These scholarships are sometimes offered to the student when they are notified of admission. Other times students need to research scholarship opportunities on the college financial aid tab. Financial need is usually not a factor in the determination of merit scholarships.

Securing scholarships from local or national businesses and nonprofit groups involves an investment of time. Students must research scholarships that match their qualifications. Scholarship applications often require essays, teacher recommendations, ACT/SAT scores, and a transcript.

Students will find information on many local and national scholarships through the College Resources page of the John Hersey High School website and the Naviance Scholarship page. Scholarships are also advertised on the monitors throughout the school. When students want more information about local scholarships, they should review the scholarship files in the CCC. Students should pay attention to scholarship deadlines.

Visit our Scholarship Website:
https://jhhs.d214.org/students/scholarship-resources/
## Junior Year

### SEPTEMBER
- Begin self-assessment. Explore your interests, values and goals, your extracurricular activities, and your academic record.
- Register for the optional Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).
- Visit the NACAC National College Fair on Navy Pier.
- If interested in the arts, visit the NACAC Performing And Visual Arts College Fair in Chicago.
- Consider Directions College Night, a fair emphasizing post-secondary options for students with special needs.

### OCTOBER
- Participate in career-related experiences (Career Nights, Career Days and Career Treks to explore future careers).
- Attend junior guidance to learn what to look for in a college and how to use Naviance in your college search.
- Native Spanish speakers can visit the D211 Spanish-speaking College Fair.

### NOVEMBER
- If interested in playing collegiate athletics, go to the D214 Student Athlete Night.
- Parents are invited to the JHHS Parent University on College Planning to receive an overview of the college planning process.

### DECEMBER
- Attend the D214 “Ask the College” Night to learn about different types of colleges.
- Finalize senior year classes with your counselor, keeping in mind your college or career requirements.

### JANUARY
- Familiarize yourself with the ACT, 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 ACT all juniors take as part of the Prairie State Achievement Exam in late April.
- Register for JHHS SAT test prep class.

### 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 you need? Social environment? Consult your counselor, post-secondary counselor, guidebooks, 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.
- Plan college visits on days off.

### MARCH
- Participate in junior guidance to learn about the college admissions process.
- 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* with representatives from over 200 colleges across the country.
- Set an appointment with the college counselor to develop a short list of good college matches.
- Visit college campuses on days off.
- Take the SAT on the Illinois School Day testing date (graduation requirement!)
- 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
- Finish college research, compare schools, and finalize your application list.
- Attend Senior Forum to learn about the college application process.
- Attend Senior Guidance to discuss college planning with your counselor.
- Have your parents attend the JHHS Parent University for an overview of the college application and financial aid process.

## SEPTEMBER
- Create a system to monitor college deadlines and required application pieces.
- Work on rough drafts of college essays and begin college applications.
- 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.
- Have your college essays read during College Essay-palooza!
- Visit the NACAC College Fair on Navy Pier.
- If interested in the arts, visit the NACAC Performing And Visual Arts College Fair and National Portfolio Day, both held in Chicago.
- Attend the Directions College Fair for postsecondary options for students with special needs.
- Attend District 214 Senior Financial Aid Night.

## OCTOBER
- Submit your FAFSA starting October 1st at www.fafsa.gov.
- Make requests for teacher and counselor recommendations, ONLY if needed.
- Send in early decision, early action, and priority applications.
- Start submitting transcript requests as applicable. Observe all deadlines.
- Have test scores sent to colleges from the testing agencies.
- Visit colleges while they're in session. Send thank you notes after any interviews.
- Native Spanish speakers can visit the D211 Spanish-speaking College Fair.
- Submit CSS Financial Aid PROFILE registration forms for schools requiring them.

## NOVEMBER
- Finish all essays and aim to submit all applications by November 1st. Observe all deadlines.
- Check with all schools to which you have applied to make sure they have received all of your materials.
- Keep your grades up; colleges do look at semester grades.
- Participate in the D214 NCAA Night if interested in college athletics.
- Submit your FAFSA before Thanksgiving and attend Scholarship Workshops!

## DECEMBER
- Submit final applications! Observe deadlines!
- Contact colleges if you are interested in arranging an alumni interview.
- Begin scholarship research.

## JANUARY
- Request that seventh semester transcripts are sent for schools requiring them.
- If accepted under a binding early decision plan, withdraw all other applications.
- Check all your colleges to check they have received all your application materials.
- Research scholarships.
- 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!
- Start looking for a summer job. You may need the money!

**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.

**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 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.
- Fill out loan applications.
- 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!*
Appendix
Websites

John Hersey High School Website
- Career Resources  https://jhhs.d214.org/students/career-resources/
- College Resources https://jhhs.d214.org/students/college-resources/
- Assessment Center https://jhhs.d214.org/students/assessment/

JHHS Post-Secondary Counseling Social Media Sites (@LifeAfterHersey)
- Twitter https://twitter.com/LifeAfterHersey
- Facebook https://www.facebook.com/LifeAfterHersey/
- Instagram https://www.instagram.com/life_after_hersey
- Snapchat @LifeAfterHersey

Exploring Career Options
- Career Cruising http://www.careercruising.com
- Naviance http://connection.naviance.com/jhhs

Exploring College Options
- ACT http://www.act.org
- Career Cruising http://www.careercruising.com
- College Board http://www.collegeboard.org
- College View http://www.collegeview.com
- Naviance http://connection.naviance.com/jhhs
- Peterson’s Education Center http://www.petersons.com

Testing
- AP Testing – send scores http://www.collegeboard.com
- ACT – register for test or send scores http://www.actstudent.org
- SAT – register for tests or send scores http://www.collegeboard.com
- TOEFL – register for test or send scores http://www.toefl.org

Financial Aid and Scholarships
- CSS Financial Aid Profile http://profileonline.collegeboard.com
- FAFSA forecaster http://fafs4caster.ed.gov/
- FAFSA on the Web http://www.fafsa.gov
- FastWeb! Scholarship Search http://www.fastweb.com
- FinAid - Financial Aid Guide http://www.finaid.org
- Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) http://www.isac.org

Applications
- Common Application http://www.commonapp.org

Athletics
- NCAA Eligibility Center http://www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org
- NAIA Eligibility Center http://www.playnaia.org
### College Admission Competition Categories

Colleges may consider several or all of the following factors in determining admission eligibility: pattern of high school coursework, grades in academic courses, test scores, college major, cumulative GPA, talents, leadership roles, community activities, evidence of exceptional motivation, letters of recommendation, athletic ability, and related career exploration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admission Competition Categories</th>
<th>Educational Opportunities in the United States</th>
<th>Mid-50% Range of ACT/SAT Scores</th>
<th>Recommended High School Academic Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highly Competitive Colleges and Universities:</td>
<td>Includes the 100 colleges and universities with the highest admission standards. Examples are Ivy League, some Big Ten, major independents (Duke, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Stanford, etc.), and premier liberal arts schools.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate scores for admission to the university.</td>
<td>ACT: 29-33, SAT: 1950-2170</td>
<td>4 years English, 4 years Adv. Mathematics, 3-4 years Laboratory Science, 3-4 years Social Studies, 3-4 years Foreign Language, 1 year Fine Arts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitive Colleges and Universities:</td>
<td>Includes Big Ten schools, most state university systems, most liberal arts colleges, and many conservatories and institutes.</td>
<td>ACT: 22-28, SAT: 1500-1890</td>
<td>4 years English, 3 years Adv. Mathematics, 3-4 years Laboratory Science, 3 years Social Studies, 2-4 years Foreign Language, 1 year Fine Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleges and Universities with Open Admission:</td>
<td>Some state universities are included, as are almost all community colleges.</td>
<td>ACT: 15-22, SAT: 1070-1470</td>
<td>4 years English, 3 years Mathematics, 2-3 years Science, 2-3 years Social Studies, 2 years Foreign Language, Vocational education or fine arts courses may be acceptable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized Colleges and Conservatories:</td>
<td>Includes the School of the Art Institute, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, etc.</td>
<td>Portfolios/auditions weighted more heavily than test scores.</td>
<td>Same as Competitive Colleges category with the addition of specialized courses in the fine arts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and Technical Schools:</td>
<td>Includes thousands of independent vocational schools throughout the United States.</td>
<td>Not always required</td>
<td>Emphasis on English, science, mathematics and vocational courses (applied tech., art, business, family and consumer sciences).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Glossary

ACT Test - A group of tests administered by ACT required or recommended by many colleges as a part of the admission process. The tests measure educational development in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning and are given at specified test centers throughout the year.

Advanced Placement (AP) - Granting of credit and/or assignment to an advanced college course on the basis of evidence that the student has mastered the equivalent of an introductory college course through an AP course taken in high school.

Application fee - A non-refundable fee usually charged for making application to a particular college.

Associate of Arts Degree - A degree granted by a college or university for a program that require two years of full-time study.

Baccalaureate Degree - the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science or any other bachelor’s degree granted by a college or university for a program that typically requires four years of full time study.

Calendar -
  - Semester: two approximately even coursework terms, usually 14-16 weeks long.
  - Quarter: three equal terms of about 11-12 weeks each and a possible optional summer term
  - Trimester: calendar year divided into three equal terms; the third term replaces summer school
  - 4-1-4 or 4-4-1: two equal terms of about 16 weeks each studying 4 courses with a 4 week interim term studying one course

Class rank - A student’s standing based on his/her academic record as compared with that of the other members of the class. In a class of 100, the highest ranking student would be number 1 at the 99th percentile; the lowest, number 100 at the 1st percentile. The class rank is frequently presented as a percentile or fraction. Examples include: the top 50%, or the top 10%, the bottom quarter.

Cooperative Education - A program integrating classroom study and work experience that offers college credit and a salary.

Credit by examination - A program through which some colleges grant course credit based on results of ACT or SAT scores, CLEP, AP, or another exam developed by the college.

Credit Hour - A unit of academic credit that often represents one hour of class time per week for a period of study (semester, quarter, etc.).

Deferred admission - the college admissions office has delayed the admissions decision until a later date.
Early Action Plan (non-binding) – an early application deadline offered by some colleges where the student applies early, receives a decision by an early date, but still has the right to apply to other schools and wait until May 1st to make a college choice.

Early Decision Plan (binding) – a plan offered by some colleges in which (1) students must withdraw their applications to any other colleges if they are notified of acceptance, or (2) students may not apply to any other early decision colleges until that institution has rejected them. In the latter case, students must usually apply no later than November 15 and be notified of their acceptance or rejection by December 15.

FAFSA or Free Application for Federal Student Aid – The application for federal student financial aid, processed at no cost to the applicant. It is used to determine a student’s eligibility for federal grant, loan, and work-study funds. Some schools may require an additional financial aid form for which there is a processing fee.

Federal College Work-Study Program – A government supported financial aid program coordinated through financial aid offices whereby an eligible student (based on need) may work part time while attending class at least halftime, generally in college related jobs. To apply, file a FAFSA.

Federal PLUS – A loan program in which parents, graduate students, and self-supporting undergraduate students can borrow from a bank or other lending institutions. To apply, file a FAFSA.

Federal Pell Grant – Financial assistance awarded by the federal government on the basis of extreme need and designed to provide the “floor” of an aid package for post-secondary education. The grant may be used toward tuition, room and board, books, or other educational cost, and requires no repayment. To apply, file a FAFSA.

Federal Perkins Loan Program – Loans funded by the federal government and awarded by the institution. The loans feature low interest rates and are repayable over an extended period of time. To apply, file a FAFSA.

Federal Stafford Loan Program – A loan program in which a student may borrow from a bank or other financial institution. The federal government may pay the interest on the loan while the student is in school. To apply, file a FAFSA.

Financial Aid package – A combination of aid (possibly including a scholarship, grant, loan, and work study) determined by a college financial aid office.

Grade point average (GPA) – An indicator of the student’s overall scholastic performance, the GPA is computed by totaling the number of grade points earned in each course (generally, A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0) and then dividing by the total number of courses carried.

Grants – Awards that are based on financial need and do not require repayment. Grants are available through the federal government, state agencies, and educational institutions.

Honors Program – A plan designed to encourage superior students to engage in a more challenging program than is required. Students who succeed in meeting the requirements of an honors program are usually granted “honor” degrees.

Liberal Arts – A broad course of instruction comprising the arts, natural sciences, language, literature, philosophy, religion, and the classics. The Latin origin of the term, arts liberates, literally means “the arts that free” (the mind and spirit).
MAP Award – Monetary Award Program provides grants, which do not have to be repaid. Program administered by the State of Illinois.

Matriculation- The process whereby a student is accepted, pays the fees, and enrolls in classes, officially becoming a student at the college. This term is only applied to freshman or to a transfer student’s first enrollment.

NCCA Initial-Eligibility Certification- In order to participate in intercollegiate sports at NCAA Division I and Division II colleges, student-athletes must be certified through the NCAA. This includes submitting their ACT/SAT scores to the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Center. In order to have test scores sent to the Eligibility Center enter “9999” as one of the college choices at the time of test registration.

Open Admissions- The policy of some colleges of admitting virtually all high school graduates regardless of academic qualifications.

PSAT/NMSQT – Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test. National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Test given in October of junior year to determine eligibility as a semifinalist. Critical thinking, math and writing are assessed.

Placement Tests- A battery of tests designed to assess a student’s aptitude and level of achievement in various academic areas so that he or she may be advised to enroll in the appropriate level classes.

Private College/University- an educational institution of higher learning that is not supported by public taxes. Private colleges may be independent or religiously affiliated.

Public College/University- An educational institution of higher learning that is supported by public taxes.

Registration- A process at the beginning of each semester or quarter where the student selects the courses he or she will enroll in, pays the appropriate fees, and sets up a class schedule for the semester or term.

Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC)- Air Force, Army, and Navy programs that combine military education with baccalaureate degree study, often with financial support for those students who commit themselves to future service in the Armed Forces.

Rolling Admission- An admission procedure by which the college considers each application as soon as all required materials have been received. The college then notifies each applicant of acceptance or rejection as soon as possible.

Scholarships- Non-repayable awards to students based on merit or talent.

SAT Reasoning Test - A test of verbal, mathematical, and writing abilities required or recommended by many colleges as a part of the admission process.

SAT Subject Test - A test measuring achievement across one of five subject areas: history, math, science, English and foreign language. There are twenty possible subject tests.

Single Choice Early Action: This is a variation on Early Action that currently only a few colleges use. By choosing Single Choice Early Action the student agrees to apply to only one college Early Action. While the student may only apply Early Action to one school, the decision is not binding.
**Teaching Assistant (TA)**- (sometimes called a graduate assistant) a graduate student whose job on campus is to teach, and often to grade, underclassmen.

**Transcript**- The official record of a student’s academic performance from the time of entrance in a given institution to the end of the latest semester.

**Tuition**- The charge for instruction. Generally designated for a year or semester for a full-time student; for part-time students it is often designated by the credit hour of a course. Room and board and books are separate, additional costs.

**Universal Reply Date (May 1)**- Unless a student has requested “early decision”, applicants have up to but no later than May 1 to notify colleges of their intent to attend in the fall. Responses earlier than May 1 are welcome but are equally as binding. On May 2, your spot may be granted to someone on a waiting list if you have not responded.

**Wait List**- Institutions may initially delay offering or denying you admission. When placed on the wait list, the institution extends to you the possibility of admission in the future. Colleges offer admission to wait list candidates if insufficient numbers of regularly admitted candidates accept their offers of admission.