JUNIOR SUMMER SEND-OFF
Tips for getting a jump start on your college applications

CREATE YOUR COLLEGE LIST

Your list should be complete by August

Do you need help adding colleges to your list?

CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO: Choosing a College That Fits.
College admissions representatives review seven criteria students should consider and rank when trying to find their “right fit” colleges.

Review the Class of 2021 “Finding the Right Fit” presentation given to students and parents in Fall 2019.

GET ORGANIZED

#1 piece of advice: READ INSTRUCTIONS and CHECK EMAIL DAILY.

Get comfortable using college websites and especially their Admissions and Financial Aid sections. They contain everything you need to know about the majors they offer, admission criteria, costs, scholarships, and more.

Use this Application Tracker to research and keep track of each college’s admission requirements.

ACT/SAT

With the cancellation of the state SAT in April and national test dates for ACT and SAT this spring, new summer and fall national test dates have been announced.

Click here to see future ACT test dates and to register. Click here to see future SAT test dates and to register.

No date has been announced yet for the rescheduling of the state SAT but we’re hopeful this will happen in the fall.

TEST OPTIONAL COLLEGES

No ACT or SAT needed

Colleges realize that juniors were not able to take ACT or SATs this spring as they have in past years. For this reason, over 1,200 colleges have become test optional, meaning you do not have to submit a test score for admission.

Check with the individual colleges on your list or check the FairTest website for a complete list of test optional colleges.

CAMPUS VISITS

While most colleges cancelled in-person campus visits this spring and summer, they may open up their campuses later this summer or fall. Check the websites of colleges you are considering for information on their campus visits.

Make sure to register several weeks in advance since they may limit the number of people on campus.

In the meantime, try virtual visits:

- YouVisit
- CampusTours
- YOUniversity

Stay connected this summer - and beyond - by following @LifeAfterHersey on these social media sites!
Create a Common App Account

The Common Application is an application currently used by nearly 900 colleges. You can create your Common App account now and roll over much of it into the new application that’s released on August 1. Please note that anything from the Common App tab as well as your My Colleges list will roll over. Any college specific questions and recommender invitations will not roll over.

Check out this Application Guide for First-Time Students to get you started.

Check the website for each of the colleges on your list to determine if they require letters of recommendation. If so, find out how many and from whom (teacher(s), counselor, both, other?). If they require a teacher recommendation, think about which junior year core subject teacher would be able to write a letter on your behalf. CLICK HERE to review the procedure, your responsibilities, and the form with questions you will give to teachers.

If they require a counselor letter of recommendation, you can fill out the “Counselor Rec Survey” in Naviance this summer (About Me—My Surveys—Surveys Not Started).

ESSAYS AND PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Write your essays over the summer!

This spring, District 214 hosted a presentation on Writing Effective College Essays. 

CLICK HERE to access the video recording.

Use the Essay Resources sheet for information on finding a college’s essay prompts, essay do’s and don’ts and other information to get you started.

THE COMMON APP

ACTIVITIES RESUME

Have a GREAT summer!

It’s been a year like no other!
Find time to relax and (safely) have fun!
Be refreshed and ready to go in August!

SAVE THE DATE:

College Boot Camp
August 5-6, 2020
Details are still being worked out. PLEASE fill out this SURVEY to help us plan!

Helpful Websites:

- JHHS College Resources
- JHHS Career Resources
- The Common App
- CARR YouTube Channel
- NACAC College Admission Status: Coronavirus Impact
- JHHS Post-secondary Planning Guide