**JUNIOR YEAR**

**College Planning Calendar**

**JUNE**

* Take the ACT or SAT Test™ this month as a guideline for any summer test preparation.
* Update your student résumé to include freshman and sophomore year activities and accomplishments.
* Be active this summer. Work a job or internship, provide volunteer service, take an advanced-credit course, attend a college summer-enrichment program or perform other activities. Use summer months wisely to build your student résumé.
* If your summer activities include jobs, internships, or volunteer service, give them your all and be outstanding. Work to impress your bosses and supervisors; these are people you may ask for letters of recommendation in the fall of your senior year . . . but only if you do an excellent job for them this summer.
* Visit a few college campuses this summer. Formally register for your visit so colleges will have a record of your interest.
* Continue to build your vocabulary by reading during summer months (and throughout the year).
* Continue to build strong academic, language, and critical thinking skills during your four years of high school.
* Parents – Plan to help your student with this year’s college admission tasks and with preparation for next year’s college application and financial aid steps. Plan on attending college campus visits, college information nights, and financial aid presentations with your student.

**JULY**

* Visit college and university campuses this summer. Visiting campuses builds a foundation from which you can compare colleges and universities next year when you apply for admission.
* Start thinking about the cost of college and how much you and your family can afford.
* To get a head start on the financial aid process, start researching scholarships. Some scholarships are available exclusively for high school juniors.
* If you want to play collegiate sports, take the steps necessary to increase your eligibility and market your athletic abilities to college coaches. (DI or DII schools on your list? Sign up for the NCAA Clearinghouse @ www.eligibilitycenter.org.)
* Obtain a Social Security Card (if you don’t already have one). A Social Security number is required for college applications, standardized tests, and financial aid.

**AUGUST**

* Earn excellent grades this year. Junior year grades are the most important grades for getting into college. Junior year grades show college admission officers how well you do in advanced, upper-level courses and indicate if you are capable of handling college-level coursework.
* Make sure your fall and spring classes are rigorous. Take Advanced Placement (AP) and/or Honors classes. The level of difficulty (rigor) of student coursework is one of the most important factors college admissions officers analyze when deciding on accepting applicants for admission.
* Continue in school clubs and organizations that interest you. College admission officers prefer students who demonstrate long-term commitment to their extracurricular activities.
* Prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT® given in October.
* Plan to meet with your high school college counselor at least every six months to ensure you are on target for graduating high school and fulfilling college admission requirements.
* Plan to compete in contests, matches, and challenges. Earn honors and awards to build your student résumé.
* Be a leader in a few extracurricular activities this school year; be an officer in a club, serve on student council, start your own organization, etc. Leadership is one of the most valuable student qualifications sought by college admission officers. “Impact” in high school is essential.

**SEPTEMBER**

* Start to think about colleges and universities you may want to apply to next fall. Write down college characteristics you prefer and discuss them with parents and friends.
* Plan to attend college fairs and financial aid seminars; learn as much as possible about colleges of interest and the entire college admission process.
* Consider college majors you may wish to study. Research careers that may spark interest in a specific major. Talk with your parents and counselor.
* Take aptitude testing. (YouScience)
* Focus your extracurricular interests on activities about which you are passionate. Your activities should be those you are prepared to stay involved with throughout your high school career. Ideally, activities should support your current career interest. A high level of involvement and accomplishment in a few activities is more important than participating in numerous activities on a surface level.
* Visit with college representatives who travel to your high school. Remember to be professional in all interactions with college and university representatives. Research the websites of visiting colleges.
* Obtain your high school CEEB Code Number. See your counselor for the code number or find it online. You will need this number when registering for the SAT® and ACT® tests and for next year’s college applications. (LRCA is 041-453)
* Attend the college fair at UALR (late September or early October)

**OCTOBER**

* Take the PSAT/NMSQT® this month. To be extra confident, familiarize yourself with the test ahead of time by taking practice tests and/or take a test-prep class. On the actual test sheet, check the box that releases your name to colleges so you can start receiving information from them.
* Note future ACT® and SAT® dates if you plan to take the tests multiple times during your junior year.
* Plan to attend college fairs and financial aid seminars; learn as much as possible about colleges of interest (and the entire college admission process).
* Meet with your high school/college-career counselor to talk about college majors and possible careers. Continue to develop a relationship with your counselor so he/she can get to know you and your interests.
* Continue to research scholarships for juniors. During your research, if you find scholarships for seniors you are interested in applying for next year, make notes for future reference.
* Begin thinking about who you will ask for recommendations next year. Think about teachers, counselors, coaches, employers, and community members you might ask for letters of recommendation. Work to build hard working, respectful relationships with these people.

**NOVEMBER**

* Begin the process of selecting a college major. Consider your interests, skills, talents, and personality. It’s alright to begin college with an undeclared major, but deciding on a possible major while in high school will help with researching and finding the colleges and universities that best suit you.
* If you’re interested in attending one of the military academies, learn about the application process so you will be prepared to apply. Research and sign up for a “Summer Seminar.”
* Learn about financial aid. Merit-based scholarships are generally awarded based on your GPA and test scores.
* Complete applications for junior-year scholarships with fall deadlines. Apply for national scholarships in which your qualifications match scholarship criteria.
* Research college summer enrichment programs for high school students. If you find a summer program of interest, start the application process next month.

**DECEMBER**

* Do well on your final exams this month. Junior year grades are evaluated very closely by college admission officers. Earn the impressive grades needed to be accepted to your college of choice.
* Register for SAT Subject test(s)™ if your colleges of interest require them. Take SAT Subject Tests™ in January for the courses completed this fall. It’s best to take SAT Subject Tests™ as soon as you’ve completed the relevant class instead of waiting until the end of the school year.
* WARNING PARENTS! – Family financial transactions may affect your student’s financial aid awards. Check with an accountant to best position your financial situation.
* Work to ensure excellent teacher recommendations. Become well-acquainted with your favorite teachers; have them become familiar with your high quality of school work and involvement with extracurricular activities. Assistance from these teachers is VITAL TO YOUR SUCCESS as a college-bound student.
* Investigate college summer enrichment programs for high school students. Start filling out application materials for programs you wish to attend.
* Visit with graduates from your high school who are home from college on winter break. Try to get an overall picture of what to expect from college life. Ask these college freshmen for advice on completing the college admission process and how to avoid pitfalls.

**JANUARY**

* Earn top grades this semester – this is the last semester to earn excellent grades before applying to college next fall.
* Review your PSAT/NMSQT® scores. Utilize Khan Academy’s free, customized test prep. Work on improving your both your strong and weak subject areas before taking the ACT® in April and the SAT Reasoning Test™ this year.
* Update your student résumé. Include all accomplishments and activities from fall semester.
* Continue to think about college majors. Make a list of your top interests, values, and skills. Do research on possible careers that may generate interest in a specific major. Utilize your YouScience results.
* Based on last semester’s grades, join academic programs and organizations that recognize high-achieving students. See your high school counselor for instructions on membership.
* Check with your high school college counselor on your progress with achieving your four-year plan. Update your four-year plan to match revisions made to your education / career goals.
* Apply for college summer enrichment programs of interest. Many programs get booked early so submit your application as soon as possible.
* Continue participating in extracurricular activities (inside and outside of school). Dedicate yourself to a few extracurricular activities and work toward leadership positions. Sign up for leadership roles in clubs, organizations, committees, and other activities you are involved with this spring semester.

**FEBRUARY**

* Plan your senior year classes. Be sure next year’s classes include required courses for both high school graduation and admission to your top colleges and universities. Your senior year curriculum should be challenging to show college admission officers you are ready for the rigors of college-level coursework.
* Apply to college summer enrichment programs (if interested).
* Continue to prepare for the ACT’s scheduled for April, June, and/or July and the SAT Test scheduled for May and June. Learn strategies for taking the tests, the types of questions to expect, and how to best use your time during the tests. It is recommended to enroll in classes given by an expert instructor who teaches test-taking strategies and approaches.
* Register for a College Boot Camp session at LRCA, held in June and July.
* Register for the ACT schedule in April, June, and/or July.
* Register for the SAT Test scheduled in May and June.
* Continue preparing for AP tests if you are enrolled in AP courses.
* Begin searching for colleges and universities that best suit your needs. Identify schools of interest so you can complete both detailed research and college campus visits prior to the coming fall.
* Complete online registration for national scholarships for juniors.
* It’s important to be professional in all interactions with college and university representatives.
* Continue to develop respectful, hard-working relationships with your teachers. Good relationships result in superior letters of recommendation.
* Visit with college representatives who come to your high school. Read information and ask questions to see if their school may be a good fit for you.

**MARCH**

* Parents - Over the next several months, schedule college campus visits, attend college information nights and financial aid presentations with your student. Get informed to help with the important decisions that lay ahead. Formally register for your visits so the colleges have a record of your interest.
* Register for College Boot Camp at LRCA, held in June and July.
* Register for the SAT Subject Tests™ scheduled in early June. Subject Tests™ should be taken as soon as possible after completing the relevant course in that subject. (If required by your college)
* Complete your initial research for colleges and universities, then select three or more schools to apply to next fall.
* Continue your efforts to select a college major (if you haven’t already done so). Examine careers you may be interested in pursuing; consider your interests, values and skills. Utilize YouScience.
* Plan your summer activities. Your activities should reflect meaningful and continued involvement in the things you are passionate about (and ideally have been involved with during your freshman, sophomore, and junior years).
* Interested in attending one of the United States military academies? If so, start the application process now.

**APRIL**

* Select three or more schools to apply to in the coming fall.
* Continue to be involved with school and community activities to build your student résumé.
* Plan your senior-year extracurricular activities. Continue with school clubs and organizations that interest you and be a LEADER in those organizations.
* Take the ACT® this month.
* Register for the SAT Subject Tests™ scheduled in June (if colleges and universities you plan to apply to in the fall require SAT Subject Tests™).
* Continue to check national scholarship notifications. Print (or save to an electronic file) information on scholarships you want to apply to in the fall. If possible, get a head start on the process by filling out applications and writing scholarship essays this summer.
* Strengthen your relationships with teachers, counselors, coaches, employers, and community members. These are the people you will ask for recommendations in the coming fall. Continue to get to know these people and expand your hard-working, respectful relationships with them.
* If you’re interested in attending a military academy, request information to learn about that academy and their admission requirements.
* Research opportunities for summer employment, internships, volunteering, or coursework. Use summer months wisely to develop and improve your student résumé.

**MAY**

* Take AP tests this month.
* Register for College Boot Camp at LRCA, held in June and July.
* Narrow your college choices and select three or more colleges and universities to apply to in the coming fall (if you haven’t already done so).
* Volunteer for leadership roles during your senior year: Run for class office, start a new club, be a student leader in a community organization, etc. Leadership experience is one of the most highly-prized student qualifications sought by college admission officers.
* Take steps to obtain great recommendations from educators. Mention to teachers and counselors with whom you have established respectful, hard-working relationships that you plan to ask them for letters of recommendation this coming fall.
* Secure jobs and internships for the summer. Ask your high school counselor, local business owners, and service clubs about summer jobs and internships that involve your college major. Ask early – the closer it gets to summer, the more likely the preferred jobs and internships will be taken by other students.
* Consider enrolling in a college class this summer. Taking a class will impress college admission officers and will put you “ahead of the game” by earning college credits before you graduate high school. Go to your local college’s website to see the classes offered this summer.
* If you plan to major in Visual Arts, the colleges you apply to will require a portfolio of your best art work (or photographs). Save your best works of art from your junior year; you may have the opportunity to include them in your portfolio.
* Update your student résumé to include junior year activities and accomplishments.
* If you want to play collegiate sports, take the steps necessary to increase your eligibility and to market your athletic abilities. Talk with your coaches about films and the best marketing websites.
* If interested in attending a military academy, contact an academy representative and start the application process as soon as possible.
* Consider taking a summer road trip to visit college campuses this summer.
* Discuss college options and costs with your parents over the summer. Keep in mind a small, private university may offer you substantial scholarships and cost you less than large, public schools that offer very little merit aid.
* Do well on your final exams. This semester is the last chance to boost your grade point average before applying to college in the fall.
* Prepare to take SAT Subject Tests™ next month.
* Parents – Plan to help your student with college preparation, the admission process, and college enrollment tasks over the next several months. Get informed and help with the important decisions ahead.