

Junior Year Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- Concentrate on your GPA.
- Register for the October PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test). Announcements regarding sign-up will begin in mid-September.
- Save samples of your best work for your academic portfolio (all year).
- Maintain your extra-curricular co-curricular record (all year).
- Attend the college fair at Purdue North Central (mid-September) or Purdue Calumet (end of September).

OCTOBER

- Junior year PSAT scores may qualify a student for the National Merit Scholarship Competition and the National Achievement and the National Hispanic Scholars Programs. Even though these scores will not be used for college admission, it is still a good idea to take the PSAT. If you wish to receive free information from colleges, indicate on the PSAT test answer form that you want to participate in the Student Search.

NOVEMBER

- Review your current classes and grades. Junior year grades are extremely important in the college admission process, because they are a measure of how well you do in advanced, upper-level courses. Grades also are used to determine scholarships and grants for which you may be eligible. So put in the extra effort and keep those grades up! Don't be afraid to ask for help from teachers or others. Remember the Tutor Lab and the National Honor Society tutors
- If you will require financial aid, start researching your options. Make an appointment with Mrs. Arthur in the Career Center or check out the Career Center webpage: <http://www.duneland.k12.in.us/Page/351>.

DECEMBER

- During December your counselor will meet with you to review the results of your PSAT. This session will help you to determine how you might improve on future standardized tests. The PSAT is excellent preparation for the SAT Reasoning Test, which you will take in the spring.
- Register for the spring SAT or ACT. You may do this online. SAT: www.collegeboard.com ACT: www.act.org. Include CHS's CEEB code 150-500 when you register. Have official test scores sent by the testing agency to colleges on your list that require an official board score report. If playing college sports, the NCAA requires scores be sent to them directing from the testing agency. Check to see if the schools you are interested in require SAT Subject tests.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- You will meet with your guidance counselor to begin to select your senior courses. Be sure to continue to challenge yourself academically.
- Narrow down the list of colleges you would like to investigate further. Surf the Internet, use the Career Center weblinks for career exploration and college planning: <http://www.duneland.k12.in.us/Page/351>. You may also use the resources in the Center or the public library. You should be optimistic and realistic when applying to colleges. .

- Start to prepare for the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT using your PSAT materials and the SAT/ACT practice tests resources available. A list of resources can be found on the Career Center website. Don't spend so much time trying to improve standardized test scores that grades and co-curricular involvement suffer.

MARCH

- Request admission literature and financial aid information from the colleges on your list. There is no charge and no obligation to obtain general information about admission and financial aid.
- Continue visiting colleges. Phone to set up appointments. Seeing the college firsthand, taking a tour and talking to students can be the greatest help in deciding whether or not a school is right for you. It is ideal to visit colleges during the academic year. Admission offices employ their students to give tours and answer questions from prospective students and their parents.
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center if you wish to play NCAA Division I or II sports in college.
www.eligibilitycenter.org

APRIL/MAY

- If you need to take the SAT Subject tests; register. Not all SAT Subject Tests are given on every test date. Check the calendar carefully to determine when the Subject Tests you want are offered.
- Continue to evaluate your list of colleges and universities. Eliminate colleges from the original list that no longer interest you and add others as appropriate.
- Look into summer jobs or apply for special summer academic or enrichment programs. Colleges love to see students using their knowledge and developing their skills and interests.
- Get a jump-start on summer activities-consider enrolling in an academic course at a local college, pursuing a summer school program, applying for an internship, working, or volunteering. If you work, save part of your earnings for college.
- Take the SAT Reasoning Test or the SAT Subject Tests.

JUNE

- After school ends, get on the road to visit colleges. Seeing the college firsthand, even in the summer will be valuable.
- Take the SAT Reasoning Test, the SAT Subject Tests and/or the ACT.
- Update your resume. Include any new activities, leadership roles, work experience, etc.

JULY/AUGUST

- Think about which teacher you will ask to write letters of recommendation.
- Visit colleges, take tours, have interviews and ask questions. Make college visiting a family event. Involve your parents and siblings in every step of your application process. Choosing the right college is a tough decision; the opinions of those who know you best can provide helpful insight into which college is best for you. Continue to refine your list of potential colleges and universities.
- Begin preparing for the actual application process: draft application essays; collect writing samples; and assemble portfolios or audition tapes. If you are an athlete and plan on playing in college, contact the coaches at the schools to which you are applying and ask about intercollegiate and intramural sports programs and athletic scholarships.