

# 11<sup>TH</sup>

# JUNIOR YEAR

## CHECKLIST



### FALL - WINTER

#### COLLEGE PLANNING

- Stay consistent with your non-academic extracurricular activities if your values and priorities haven't changed. If they have, try something new. Continue to look for ways to explore and deepend your interests in these activities. Try a leadership role if you haven't already.
- Continue to update your activity log to begin preparing to create a resume.
- Meet with your counselor about coursework and college plans.
- Check college websites for admission requirements.
- Create a professional email address to use when applying for scholarships, registering for college entrance exams and completing college applications.
- Attend college fairs and/or college information events.
- Meet with college admissions recruiters when they visit your high school.

#### COLLEGE SEARCH

- Tour local campuses and visit non-local colleges during winter and spring breaks; consider campus size, location and academic programs.
- Try online college fairs and virtual campus tours (<https://campustours.com>; [www.youvisit.com](http://www.youvisit.com); [www.ecampustours.com](http://www.ecampustours.com)).

#### COLLEGE SEARCH (CONT.)

- Use Naviance College SuperMatch to explore colleges in the location that you want and that have the program you seek.
- Prepare your college list in Naviance by adding to "Colleges I'm Thinking About".
  - Start a preliminary list of colleges to visit using the results found in the super match in Naviance. Meet with your family to discuss dates for college visits throughout your junior year.
- Set up a time to meet with your CCIC and/or counselor to prepare for what you should do during the summer.

#### CAREER EXPLORATION

- Attend a local career fair.
- Take an online career inventory to help connect your interests and skills with a career (<https://montgomerycollege.lightcastcc.com/assessment?region=Rockville,%20MD&radius=> OR <https://roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder>).
- Make a list of careers that may interest you and research the education level required for each profession.
- Talk with professionals in careers you are curious about and ask about their work.
- Enhance skills that would be useful in a career of interest through your extracurricular activities.

CAREER EXPLORATION (CONT.)

- For Military:
  - Reach out to a recruiter to start the conversation.
  - Take the ASVAB Aptitude test.

**SPRING**COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

- Take the PSAT/NSMQT in October. This test qualifies students for the [National Merit Scholarships](#). (Guides to the [PSAT](#) and [National Merit Scholarship](#).)
- Register and take the FREE SAT exam at your school during spring semester so you can take it again the fall of your senior year if needed.
  - Several colleges are test optional – check [here](#) for the most comprehensive list.
  - Some colleges do not require a test score for admission but do require it for scholarships so do your research to check requirements.
  - [SAT](#), with essay option SAT; free SAT test prep help offered through [Khan Academy](#).
  - [ACT](#), with essay option ACT); [free ACT test prep help](#).
- Take the ASVAB Aptitude test if interested in enlisting in the military.
- Take the AP/IB exams in May.

ACADEMICS

- Keep your grades up. Junior year grades are the last ones some schools will see before making an admissions decision.
- Continue challenging yourself academically with higher level AP or honors classes.
- Prepare for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams.

ACADEMICS (CONT.)

- Plan your senior year schedule with your school counselor and discuss post-secondary options. Colleges will want to see a strong senior year course load including five academic classes.
- Schedule a meeting with your school counselor to discuss the colleges you are interested in. Tell them about your college preferences and ask for their suggestions of colleges that might be a good fit for you. Continue to develop your relations with your counselor.
- Review your college preparation coursework and GPA with the college/career coordinator
- Create a list of teachers, coaches and other mentors who will be able to write personalized letters of recommendation.
- Consider internships, apprenticeship programs and dual enrollment opportunities .
- Apply to one year programs at [Thomas Edison High School](#) if interested.
- Complete the letter of recommendation questionnaire/brag sheet and request letters from two academic teachers from junior year.

PREPARE FOR SUMMER

- Apply for summer jobs, programs or internships.
- Seek volunteer and SSL hour opportunities in your field of interest.
- Register for community college courses and earn college credit while in high school, also referred to as [dual enrollment](#).
- If you took the SAT or ACT, review your test scores to determine if retesting is needed.

PREPARE FOR SUMMER (CONT.)

- Plan a test preparation schedule if you plan to retake the exams.
- Start researching [scholarship opportunities](#).

**SUMMER**COLLEGE APPLICATION SEASON BEGINS

- Refine and finalize your college list. Be sure it reflects a balance of admission probabilities (likely/safe, possible/target, and reach schools).
- Check websites of colleges on your list;** review admissions application process; requirements and timeline. Research the type of applications required for each school on your list, as these vary.
- Attend summer workshops here at your school or virtually through the county to learn how to: apply to college; use Common App; write an essay; find a college that fits you, etc.
- Set up a meeting with the college/career coordinator to discuss your plans.
- Draft your application essays and/or personal statement; work with the college/career coordinator for feedback.
- Write your [Common Application personal statement](#).
- Complete the [Common Application \(How to Guide\)](#).

COLLEGE APPLICATION SEASON BEGINS (CONT.)

- Prepare a resume and complete the Student Self-Evaluation Brag Sheet in Naviance to list all of your non-academic activities and honors.
- Communicate with college admission representatives for questions you may have.
- Begin planning visits to colleges you are interested in attending.
- Request letters of recommendations from teachers, coaches, counselors, etc.
- Create Common Application Account using your personal email address.
- Research the admission requirements and deadlines for schools on your list and create a spreadsheet to organize information. Research to see if an interview is offered or required at each school.
- Create a scholarship spreadsheet to list deadlines and requirements.

ATHLETIC RECRUITMENT

- Double-check that your classes meet the NCAA Clearinghouse requirements.
- Complete online athletic recruitment forms for each college you're considering. You'll find these on the college's website under "athletics."
- Once you've completed the online recruitment forms, make your sports resume and recruitment videos.
- Spread out your correspondence with coaches by sending the resumes and video a few weeks after you complete the online forms.

## ATHLETIC RECRUITMENT (CONT.)

- Send your sports resume and video to college coaches and fill out the athletic recruitment surveys on the college website.

## FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS

- Sign up for Performing and Visual Arts College Fairs.
- Create an admissions requirements spreadsheet for fine and performing arts programs.
- Create a portfolio and audition materials, spend junior year working on pieces.
- Explore how the audition and portfolio process works for college admissions.
- Build your portfolio and audition videos.

**LINKS****COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS**

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  - <https://www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/psat-scores>
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  - <https://www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/national-merit-scholarship>
- Test Optional Colleges Comprehensive List
  - <http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>
- SAT
  - <http://www.collegeboard.org/>
- Khan Academy
  - <https://khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat>
- ACT
  - <http://www.act.org/>
- Free ACT Test Prep Help
  - <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html>

**ACADEMICS**

- Thomas Edison High School of Technology
  - <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/edison/about/>

**PREPARE FOR SUMMER**

- Dual Enrollment
  - <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/partnerships/dual-enrollment>
- Scholarship Opportunities
  - <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/careercenter/financialaid/scholarshipupdates/>

**COLLEGE APPLICATION SEASON BEGIN**

- Common Application Personal Statement
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- Test Optional Colleges Comprehensive List
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- SAT
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