

College Counseling Calendar: JUNIOR YEAR

August

Continue to update the list of activities you began as a freshman. Don't forget the resumé-building activities you did during the summer.

Begin the year with a commitment to make the best grades possible and stick to your commitment. Your grades this year tell universities a great deal about you. In particular, performances in AP and honors classes are a good indication of how you will do in college.

Honor your commitments to extracurricular activities. If your resumé still needs material, get involved or start your own initiative.

Make plans to attend sessions with visiting college representatives. Sign up early and follow through. Collect admission materials and sign the information cards provided so that you will be added to college mailing lists.

Friday, Aug. 16: Deadline to register for the Sept. 14 ACT.

September

Wednesday, Sept. 4: Attend "Junior Journeys" with your parents (6:30 p.m. SMP Library) to hear about the junior class college trip, advice and resources about selecting schools, and tips for school visits.

Friday, Sept. 28: Deadline to register for Oct. 26 ACT.

Prepare for the PSAT (Oct. 16). While this is still a practice test for the SAT, juniors who score exceptionally well on the PSAT may be considered for participation in the National Merit Scholars competition. Visit www.collegeboard.org for more information.

Start researching colleges and take advantages of resources in the Counseling Office and online. Websites like www.collegeboard.org and www.admittedly.com have helpful college-search information.

October

Wednesday, Oct. 16: Take the PSAT.

Evaluate your first quarter grades and determine what you are doing well and what must improve to meet your academic goals for the year.

November

Friday, Nov. 8: Deadline to register for the Dec. 14 ACT.

Tuesday, Nov. 19 – Friday, Nov. 22: Fall Junior Trip: This year, juniors will have the option to go on the college tour either in November or January. The itinerary of both trips will be the same. This class will visit schools in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Begin to establish criteria for the type of college that you would like to attend. Use college guides to find schools that meet your criteria. Talk to family, friends, and teachers about their college choices and experiences.

December

PSAT reports are distributed via email from College Board. Read the information carefully to interpret your performance. Ms. Fournet will go over these results with you in your spring meeting.

Dec. 1 – 16: Study thoroughly for midterm exams and attend any extra help sessions that your teachers offer.

Over Christmas Break: Take a realistic look with your parents at the costs associated with each of the schools you are considering. Research financial aid options and scholarship programs at each school if you will need financial assistance to attend college.

Depending on your performance on the PSAT and your possible list of colleges, register to take the SAT in January or March. It may also be necessary for you to take SAT Subject Tests, depending on the schools you are considering. Go to www.collegeboard.org to register online.

Talk to your parents about planning your own college tour during the week of Mardi Gras. It is always best to visit a campus when classes are in session. Plan your visit through the admissions office at each institution.

January - February

Prepare for spring SATs and ACTs.

Friday, Jan. 10: Deadline to register for Feb. 8 ACT.

Monday, Jan. 6 – Friday, Feb. 7: Individual meetings with Ms. Fournet to discuss your list possibilities, to plan for next year, and to address concerns. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Tuesday, Jan. 21-Friday, Jan. 24: Spring Junior Trip. This year, juniors will have the option to go on the college tour either in November or January. The itinerary of both trips will be the same. The class will visit schools in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

February - March

Feb. 24 - 28: Go on a college tour with your family. Determine whether the schools on your list meet all of your needs. When you visit, be sure to ask questions, talk to college students, and keep a notebook of what you liked and disliked about each campus visited.

Friday, Feb. 28: Deadline to register for the Apr. 4 ACT.

Friday, March 8: Deadline to register for April 13 ACT. If any of your prospective colleges or universities require the ACT Writing test, make sure you take it with enough time before applications are due. If you plan to take dual enrollment classes as a senior, send your scores to UL.

If your potential schools require SAT Subject Tests, look into scheduling those this spring.

Continue researching and talking informally with Ms. Fournet.

Continue to work diligently on your studies. Avoid the temptation to succumb to spring fever.

April

Begin to consider which teacher(s) would best prepare a college recommendation letter for you. Make a formal request in May if possible.

Prepare for any AP exams to be held in early May.

May

Friday, May 8: Deadline to register for June 13 ACT.

If you are enrolled in AP classes, take the AP exams given in early May.

Give serious time to preparing for your final exams.

Make sure that you have completed and turned in documentation for your 15 required service hours. Consider completing the rest of your hours this summer so that responsibility is not hanging over your head senior year.

Write a first draft of your college application essay. This will be an assignment in your English class at some point during the spring semester.

June - August

Friday, June 19: Deadline to register for the July 18 ACT.

Spend your summer productively. Get a summer job or internship, volunteer, or sign up for a college or enrichment program.

Continue to visit colleges and work on narrowing your list to approximately three to eight schools that you will apply to in the fall.

Visit www.commonapp.org or individual college websites to preview applications.

Make sure that your service hours are up to date.