

JUNIOR YEAR

September

Focus on taking a balanced course load and achieving the best possible grades in these classes.

Branch out!

Join a club, try out for a sports team, volunteer, get a job, or take on a new hobby. Colleges want to admit students who not only cultivate existing interests, but also explore new interests and gain experiences. These experiences can help students to think about possible career interests and goals that may be part of a college major, a 2-year certification program, or a career in the trades.

October

Careers in trade

Thinking that a trade opportunity after graduation may be your goal? See the BHS career counselor or your guidance counselor for more information.

November

Have fun during Thanksgiving Break!

Try to speak with friends home from college. Talk to family/friends who have careers in areas you may be interested, including technical and trade opportunities.

December

Start studying for the SATs. Take some practice exams, sign up for a prep class, download some helpful apps.

- collegeboard.org
- khanacademy.org
- kaptest.com

Meet with your guidance counselor. Plan whether you'll take the SAT or ACT test. Note that many schools are now test-optional. (fairtest.org)

SAT or ACT?

There are differences between the two tests which you can research. Meet with your guidance counselor or the BHS college counselor to discuss your strengths and advantages for each test.

January

February

Junior Night

Introduction to post-secondary planning for parents and students.

ACT Exam

Students must self-register one month in advance. For more information, visit the ACT website. (act.org)

College visits

Students should take time during February vacation to visit colleges they have been researching for the last few months. (Visits can be set up by visiting the school's website and arranging an official tour.)

Research for this summer

Look into summer jobs, internships, camps or any other program that could grow your interests. Contact the BHS career counselor to discuss the options. (Also: TeenLife.com)

March

SAT Exam

Students must self-register one month in advance. For more information, visit the College Board website. (CollegeBoard.org)

SAT Subject Tests

Only a small number of schools recommend or require 2 or 3 SAT subject tests. Visit each college website for requirements. Go to: compassprep.com/subject-test-requirements-and-recommendations/ for updated information on which colleges require (only 8 in 2017) or recommend (only 14 in 2017) Subject Tests.

April

Individual post high school planning meetings

Students meet with their academic advisor to continue the post-secondary planning process.

Virtual college visits

Some colleges provide video chats for online visits. CollegeWeekLive provides online events for over 500 colleges. (collegeweeklive.com)

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BHS Job/Career Fair

May

SAT OR SAT II Subject Exams

Students must self-register one month in advance. For more information, visit the College Board website. (CollegeBoard.org)

AP Exams

Advanced Placement Exams are offered in the beginning of May. Visit the AP College Board website (apstudent.collegeboard.org) and consult your teacher for more information.

Summertime!



Make plans!

While summer is a time to relax from school, it's also a great time to stay busy with activities such as jobs, summer camp, internships, volunteering, etc. Colleges prefer that students keep exploring new interests, cultivating existing interests, and gaining new experiences.

Work on your college list

This is a great time to start editing your college list. If you fall in love with a particular college, consider an early decision (ED) or early action application (EA).

Visits colleges

Continue to visit colleges, keeping a list of pros and cons for each school. College visits should be set up by visiting the school's website and registering for an official tour. Look up information for each of your choice colleges.

College Essay

Students should start working on the first draft of their college essay over the summer. The essay questions tend to be similar from year to year. Speak with your English teacher or counselor about choosing prompts.

When it comes out in August, review and start filling out the the Common Application. This can help reduce the amount needed to be done in Fall. (www.commonapp.org)

June



Teacher Recommendations

Talk to your counselor about who to ask for a recommendation. Typically colleges ask for two teacher recommendations: one from a Humanities class and one from a Math/Science class. Teachers will expect specific information from students in September such as a list of colleges, addresses and envelopes.

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ACT Exam

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