

I Want my Child to go to College
A Junior Parent's Checklist

1. Registration for the PSAT begins in September. Only juniors who register will take the test, but students who qualify for free/reduced lunch will also be eligible for a fee waiver (limited availability, so please request early. We may not have enough for every eligible student). The cost in 2006 was \$12.00.
2. Junior Conferences occur in the fall (usually November). At these conferences, your child will be given a resource guide with information on college testing, choosing a college, funding college, SAT, ACT, internet resources, etc. Students will also meet with their counselors to look over credits and determine if any remediation or acceleration is needed for graduation the next year.
3. Continue to look at college web-sites during the student's junior year. Narrow your focus to 3 schools, although never exclude any school from consideration. You should be on the mailing lists of your 3 focus schools.
4. Register by mail for the SAT and/or ACT for any test date in the spring semester (close to the end of the school year is better). Students can also register on-line by using a credit card. Fee waivers for the SAT and the ACT are available from the student's counselor. Please make sure to request these well before the application deadline. The web addresses are
 - a. www.act.org
 - b. www.collegeboard.com
5. Make sure your child is registered with at least one internet scholarship search engine. www.fastweb.org, www.AIE.org, and www.finaid.org are reputable sites. Also, your child should be going to the GO Center to see what scholarships are available to seniors to get an idea of application requirements. There are a few scholarships directed exclusively at juniors.
6. Do not rely exclusively on search engines and the GO Center for scholarship information. Sometimes businesses, civic organizations, and churches also offer scholarships. For every extra hour it takes you to find a scholarship, you have eliminated all potential applicants who did not spend that extra hour of research. Some of your child's best scholarship opportunities will be those that are hardest to find.
7. Junior year is the year for college visits. Plan them over any holidays and during the summer. Absences to visit colleges must be approved by administration in advance to count as excused absences, but they ARE absences.
8. Gather the information together that will go on a high school resume': extracurricular activities, part-time employment, honors and achievements, and volunteer participation. Your child can start asking favorite teachers, volunteer coordinators and employers if they would be willing to write letters of recommendation for scholarships and college applications next year.
9. If your child has not been involved yet, it is not too late to have him/her get involved. Volunteer/community involvement continues to be important in scholarship applications.