



## **JUNIOR COLLEGE CHECKLIST**

### **SEPTEMBER:**

- ☐ Focus on doing well in your classes.
- ☐ Start to explore and research various colleges; it is also a great time to explore your personal likes and dislikes. Focus on you.
  - Do you like being in the midst of a lot of action and people?
  - Do you like the hustle and bustle of a big city?
  - Perhaps, you prefer small surroundings and the small community settings where everyone knows each other?
  - What type of college is a good match for you?
- ☐ Continue with your community service projects. Remember that quality and depth of the project is more important than the number of projects.
- ☐ Update your personal resume in Naviance.

### **OCTOBER:**

- ☐ Study for and take the PSAT/NMSQT. This year the PSAT/NMSQT is very important—it is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- ☐ Consider taking a free SAT and/or ACT practice test to see which test you perform better on.
- ☐ Attend College Rep visits at lunch.

### **NOVEMBER:**

- ☐ Continue to focus on your classes.
- ☐ Take a college tour.
- ☐ Decide on a testing and test prep schedule. Consider the free resources available for test prep.

### **DECEMBER:**

- ☐ Enjoy your Christmas Break!!

### **JANUARY:**

- ☐ Receive results of your PSAT/NMSQT. Read the material sent with your scores, this can be excellent preparation for taking the SAT.
- ☐ Begin researching colleges in more depth.
- ☐ Register for the February ACT and/or March SAT, if appropriate.
- ☐ Make a plan for your summer. Do something that you find valuable and enriching. Consider enrolling in an academic enrichment course, pursuing a summer course at the community college, doing an internship, or working as a volunteer.

### **FEBRUARY:**

- ☐ Select your classes for senior year. Remember, these classes matter too, so continue challenging yourself.
- ☐ Start planning your college visits for spring break or for the summer.
- ☐ Take the ACT, if appropriate.

### **MARCH:**

- ☐ Attend Junior Family Night to kick off the college application process.

- ☐ Schedule your one-on-one college meeting with your counselor. Parents are welcome to attend.
- ☐ Take the SAT, if appropriate.
- ☐ Register and begin to prepare for the April/June ACT and/or the May/June SAT and/or SAT Subject Exams.
- ☐ Athletes planning to play sports in college—register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- ☐ Continue college research.
- ☐ Talk to current students and/or alumni from the colleges on your list to get an idea of campus life at those schools.
- ☐ Use your spring break to visit college campuses.
- ☐ Talk about how your family will pay for college. Knowing your budget ahead of time saves a lot of stress!

#### **APRIL:**

- ☐ Take the ACT, if appropriate.
- ☐ Keep your grades up—the junior year grades are very important.
- ☐ Attend the National College Fair at Ventura's Seaside Park—Watch for the date and time in the Regent Roundup.
- ☐ Ask at least one of your teachers **in person** if he/she would be willing to write a recommendation for you. (The number of letters needed is determined by each college- typically **two** are needed.)

#### **MAY:**

- ☐ Take the SAT or SAT Subject Exam, if appropriate.
- ☐ Take AP Exams, if appropriate.
- ☐ Continue to evaluate colleges. Begin eliminating some choices from the original list.
- ☐ Submit Letter of Recommendation request form to counselor.

#### **JUNE:**

- ☐ Take the ACT and/or SAT or SAT Subject Exams, if appropriate.
- ☐ Plan to visit colleges during summer.
- ☐ Continue to refine your college list. Start focusing on creating a 3-tiered list of Likely, Target and Reach schools.
- ☐ Update your personal resume file.

#### **JULY:**

- ☐ Brainstorm your college essay topics
- ☐ Begin working on the Common Application if applicable
- ☐ Continue researching colleges