

JUNIOR YEAR

Summer before Junior Year:

- Visit a college or 2
- Research scholarships
- Commit to maintaining good grades in the junior year

September

- Browse college catalogs online and surf the Web for information
- List 5-7 colleges you might like to attend
- Register and study for the PSAT
Remember that this is your one chance to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship program

October

- Take the PSAT
- Talk to your parents and guidance counselor about your list of colleges to help you evaluate and make changes if appropriate
- Begin researching financial aid options

November

- If you would like to take the December ACT, register before the November deadline (This is not mandatory, but it is an option if you want to get an early start) www.actstudent.org
- Discuss as a family how you might finance your education
- Review your PSAT results with your counselor

December

- Take online campus tours
- Ask your parents to attend a Financial Aid night this year or next

January

- Choose appropriate and challenging classes for your senior year. Consider taking A.P. courses.

February

- Investigate private scholarships and other aid programs. Check with your parents' employers, local membership organizations, or programs related to your intended course of study.
- Study for the March ACT given at school

March

- Begin visiting schools on your list and consider including an overnight stay at these schools
- Participate in the ACT prep class given during the school day at CCHS
- Take the mandatory ACT (This ACT is given during the school day at no cost to the student)
- Plan for when you will take the ACT again. It is recommended that you take the ACT at least 3 times in order to maximize your score potential.
- Ask your counselor for a preview of your academic transcript, determine what gaps or weaknesses there are, and get suggestions on how to strengthen your candidacy for the schools in which you are interested.

April

- Make the most of spring break by including a college visit

Summer between Junior and Senior year:

- Find out if your colleges offer early-action or early-decision programs and decide if you want to participate in them.
- Continue researching organizations that award scholarships to graduating seniors. You may need to apply for them the summer after your junior year.