

Tips for Junior Year

- Meet with your school counselor. Review your grades and discuss your graduation plans. Discuss your current GPA. Keeping in contact with your counselor is important because you will need a letter of recommendation from them next year. It is easier to ask when you know them and it's easier for them to write a personal letter when they know you too.
- Now is the time, if you haven't already, start paying attention to when colleges come to campus for visits. Check out a few. It does not commit you to applying, but it may give you better ideas about what is important to you and where you want to apply next year.
- Start checking out some colleges on-line and request some information.
- Take the ACT/SAT. If you don't like how you did, consider taking it again. Study this time.
- Start paying attention to the scholarship board for scholarships and essay contests that are open only to juniors.
- Take a career interest survey. Take more than one.
- Your classes will probably be tougher this year. Stay focused. Get some sleep and take your vitamins. For some college applications, these are the last grades that will show up on your applications to them.
- Stay involved. If you have the time, say yes, instead of no.
- Grab your list! Were you selected for any varsity sports? Have you started taking leadership roles in your clubs or student government? Were you awarded most argumentative for your persuasive essay? Did you solo the Star Spangled Banner at a swim meet? Did you take your club to State or Nationals? Were you the youngest participant that placed in a ROTC rifle competition? What about volunteering? What about after-school commitments? How many hours a week are you spending on a job? This has become your activity resume! This will be VERY helpful next year.
- Make summer plans: visit colleges, consider finances, get a summer job, volunteer and make sure to take time to relax!