

Dear Junior,

Now is the time to really start cultivating your interests and realizing your goals. You should begin to assess your performance and the potential that you have demonstrated throughout your high school career so that you can begin to pursue your future personal and educational plan. By honing your goals over the next year, you will position yourself to research and visit those colleges that will compliment your needs.

In order to help facilitate this process, I have enclosed some self-assessment worksheets as well as other documents intended to help you organize and prepare yourself for the college application process.

The HSPS college counseling program begins with College Night. College Night will provide you with general information regarding the overall college application process. In November, you and your parents will be invited to participate in the Junior Student and Parent Seminar in which the college counseling handbook will be distributed and more specific college bound information will be discussed. Individual parent, student and college counselor conferences will begin shortly thereafter.

I look forward to working with you this year and next in finding a program that meets or exceeds your goals, expectations, and aspirations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Cal Kanaly
Director of Guidance and College Counseling

JUNIOR YEAR

GOALS

- △ Concentrate on your GPA.
- △ Get information packets from colleges.
- △ Attend career days and college fairs.
- △ Plan on-campus tours to narrow down your college choices further.

TESTS

- △ Take PSAT.
- △ Review PSAT results in December - January.
- △ Take the Stanford and when results are mailed home, review your strengths and weaknesses.
- △ If applicable, take AP/CLEP tests.
- △ Schedule dates to take the SAT and ACT tests (HSPS recommends that juniors take the old SAT in January and then the new SAT in the spring).

GET ORGANIZED & BECOME PREPARED

Fall-

- △ Continue participating in extracurricular activities and work towards leadership in those activities.
- △ Continue participating in volunteer services.
- △ Continue taking the most challenging course load that you can.
- △ Begin touring colleges during school holidays. It is recommended that you visit the colleges in Georgia to get a feel for public vs. private, large vs. small, etc, before investing in an expensive tour.

Spring-

- △ Compile writing samples, put together portfolios, and work on audition tapes for college scholarships.
- △ Consider taking a summer class.
- △ If applicable take AP and CLEP exams.
- △ Look for a summer job related to your considered major.
- △ Have teachers complete your Faculty Comment Forms you will receive at your junior seminar.

Summer –

- △ Work on essays for college applications and scholarships.
- △ Decide what teacher you would like to write your recommendations, so that you can complete teacher recommendation request forms and submit these forms to the college counseling office before October 31st of your senior year.
- △ Work on your resume.
- △ Start the application process if you're applying Early Decision or Early Action.

△ Continue touring colleges that interest you.

Selective Schools (*If you are considering or showing some interest in applying to selective colleges below are a few recommendations*):

△ You should enroll in all honors courses offered and a couple of AP classes.

△ Tour your 4-10 top colleges – during the academic year.

△ Continue to excel in your chosen sports and extracurricular activities and complete your school and community service hours doing something that relates to your interests and future goals.

△ Travel – come colleges are impressed with students who travel for academic or community service.

△ Call colleges in July for applications.

JUNIOR YEAR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

September

- STUDY – First and Foremost.
- Attend a college fair.
- Study for the PSAT.
- Attend some of the college representative information sessions at HSPS.

October

- Take the PSAT!

November & December

- November 13 - Students attend the Junior Seminar.
- November 16 - Parents attend the Parent Junior Seminar.
- November – 1) Begin writing down information about colleges that interest you.
2) Review college catalogues, view books, software, Web sites and other sources.
 - i. “Reach” - These are considered selective colleges and may be considered a “stretch” college due to their requirements.
 - ii. “Aim” – These are the more solid or middle of the road colleges for you.
 - iii. “Safety” – These are colleges that you are very likely to be accepted.
- December 17 - Return completed Student and Parent College Questionnaires to the college counseling office. These questionnaires are included in your junior seminar packets. After submitting the Student and Parent College Questionnaires, schedule a college planning meeting with the college counselor.
- Start visiting colleges during holidays, spring break, as well as during the summer. Remember the “no school” days - February 21, April 15 & 18 and May 30 – and try to take advantage of these longer weekends with trips to colleges.

January-April

- January – You will receive your PSAT score results. Review your answer sheet and test book to determine weaknesses. Focus on these weaknesses before you begin taking the SAT in the spring.
- February to April – Hand out the Faculty Comment Forms to the 3 teachers of your choice. These forms are in your Junior Seminar Packet.
- Continue making a list of possible colleges/universities.
- January – April – Parent, Student, and college counselor meetings will begin.
- It is strongly recommended that you take the SAT, ACT, and possibly a SAT II test during the second semester, junior year. It is also recommended that you take the Old SAT in January before the New SAT comes into effect March 12.
- If you are considering applying to a military institution, complete the Pre-Candidate Questionnaire the spring of you junior year.

- March – Register for SAT II Subject Tests in May and/or June. Talk to your teachers in each course for their advice.

May

- Start narrowing down your list of colleges (8-10).
- Update log sheets.
- If applicable, take AP/CLEP.
- If applicable, take SAT II Tests.

Summer

- Visit colleges.
- Participate in summer academic or community service projects.
- Search for scholarships.