

College Planning

Junior Year

Junior year usually marks a turning point. This is because for most students and families, it's when college planning activities kick into high gear. Here are some things you can do this year to get your best options. Be sure to check out the [WBHS Brace Website](#).

Summer

- Visit a college campus together. It's a great way to learn about college. Review the information about [preparing for a campus visit](#).
- Get the facts about what college costs. You may be surprised at how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading [Understanding College Costs](#).
- Explore financial aid options. These include grants and scholarships, loans, and work-study programs that can help pay for college costs. Find out more about how [financial aid can make college affordable](#).

Fall

- Make sure you meet with your Brace Advisor. This meeting is especially important this year as you start to engage in the college application process. Learn more about [the high school counselor's role](#).
- Set goals for the school year. Working towards a specific goal helps you stay motivated and focused. Review last years goals. See how much you have progresses.
- Stay organized. Work with your parents to make weekly or monthly to-do lists to keep on top of the tasks required to get ready for applying to colleges. For more time-management tips, see [8 Ways To Take Control of Your Time](#).
- Get ready for the PSAT/NMSQT in October. This is a preliminary test that helps students practice for the SAT and assesses their academic skills. Juniors who score well on the test are also eligible for scholarship opportunities. Find out more about the [PSAT/NMSQT](#).

Winter

- Start thinking about financial aid. It's not too early to look into types of aid that could help you cover college costs. Start by reading [7 Things You Need To Know About Financial Aid](#).
- Prepare for college admission tests. Many juniors take college admission tests, such as the SAT & ACT in the spring so they can get a head start on planning for college. Plan to take the tests multiple times and use your best combined score for admission. Take the SAT Practice Test.
- Discuss taking college-level or honors courses as a senior as this can help prepare you for college work. [Learn more about advanced classes](#).
- Consider taking the SAT Subject Tests. Many colleges require or recommend taking these tests to get a sense of your skills in a certain academic area. In general, it's best to take a Subject Test right after taking the relevant course. Learn more about SAT Subject Tests. [COVID UPDATE - College Board Will No Longer Offer SAT Subject Tests or SAT with Essay](#).
- Take AP exams if you are taking AP or other advance courses. Talk with teachers now about taking these tests in May. [Read more about the AP program](#)

Spring

- Once you determine the qualities you are looking for, search for colleges by entering these criteria into [College Search](#) to create a list of colleges to consider applying to.
- Research scholarships (financial aid money that doesn't need to be repaid). Learn more through [College Board's Scholarship Search](#).
- Make plans to check out campuses of colleges you are interested in. Use the [Campus Visit Checklist](#) to help get the most out of these experiences.
- Review the plans for your "Senior Year"