

# Junior Year Action Plan

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## **Prior to Scheduling the Junior Post-Secondary Planning Meeting with your Counselor You Must**

- ✓ Complete the Junior Questionnaire and Parent Questionnaire in Naviance
- ✓ Complete and submit your first Activity Resume Draft to your counselor
- ✓ Updated your 'Colleges I am Thinking About' list in Naviance
- ✓ Mark these items as complete Naviance

## **Senior Scheduling Planning**

- Select and enroll in appropriately challenging senior courses that will match your interests and post-secondary goals [check individual colleges for any required course work for programs your are interested in]
- Identify and meet with a teacher if you have an interest in an internship. During the first week of May, pick up and complete the paperwork (from Mr. Anderson).
- Meet with Mrs. Diane Rodriguez in room A216 (next to the school store) if you plan to take a VHS course

## **College Entrance Testing**

- Take SAT or ACT practice tests (free on their websites)
- Decide if you plan to take a SAT/ACT Test Prep Course. If you are on free/reduced lunch, ask your counselor for a fee waiver.
- Register for the ACT with Writing at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) by **March 13<sup>th</sup>** for the **June 13<sup>th</sup>** test date both at WHS.
- Register for the SAT at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) by **February 13<sup>th</sup>** for the **March 14<sup>th</sup> test date. April 16<sup>th</sup>** for the **May 2<sup>nd</sup>** test date. **May 8<sup>th</sup>** for the **June 6<sup>th</sup>** test date all at WHS. SAT Subject Tests are also available on **May 2<sup>nd</sup>** and **June 6<sup>th</sup>**.
- Check the colleges you are considering to see if they also recommend/require SAT Subject Tests (or if the ACT can cover both).
- If you are on an IEP or a 504**, you are required to submit needed paperwork to your counselor for submission to College Board and ACT for accommodations requests at least seven weeks before the test date.

## **See your counselor immediately!**

### **Tips: Answer the SAT Question of Day (online, email, Twitter)**

- Review questions and scores
- Read, read, read.....
  - Recommended novels:
    - "Head Over Heels" By Ryan Nertx
    - "Rave New World" By Lynne Hansen

### **College/Career Research**

- Read the Westborough High School Post-Secondary Planning Handbook
- Utilize career resources in Naviance (career interest profiler, Do What You Are Personality Assessment)
- Review the WHS 2012-2013-2014 College Statistics document located in Naviance
- Start an organizational system at home for your college materials
- Determine if there are any volunteer/internship opportunities that would enhance your personal development and add to the richness of your applications
- Research colleges regularly to help refine your list
- Visit and tour colleges during junior year while the students are on campus. April school vacation is a great time to visit. **[3 excused absences are given for college visits]**
- Request 2 teacher recommendations by having a personal conversation with those teachers by the end of junior year
- Use Naviance, reference books, view books, books and brochures and school/college websites available to assist you in your search in the School Counseling Office as well as online resources.
- Have a conversation with your parents to develop a plan when you will visit colleges

### **College Fairs**

- Boson National College Fair **April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>** at [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org)
- Metro West College & Career Fair Saturday, **March 21<sup>st</sup>**, [www.ashlandeducationfoundation.org/collegefair](http://www.ashlandeducationfoundation.org/collegefair)
- Colleges That Change Lives College Fair Wednesday, **May 20<sup>th</sup>** at the Boston Marriott Newton Hotel [www.CTCL.org](http://www.CTCL.org)

### **College Essay Writing Workshop**

- Sign up for WHS summer College Essay Writing Workshop (**further details to come on Naviance**)
- Write your essay during the summer if you did not have the opportunity to attend the summer essay workshop

### **Other**

- Request 2 teacher recommendations by having a personal conversation with those teachers by the end of junior year
- Continue to update your activity resume
- Start your Common Application as early as August 1<sup>st</sup>
- Register with the NCAA if you plan to play Division 1 or 2 sports
- Check for important college application deadline dates
- Begin searching for scholarships
- Write down questions for your counselor.**

# Senior Year Action Plan

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## **Fall Action Items**

- Review your transcript and GPA
- Attend Senior Information Night in September
- Begin working on your college applications. Create a Common Application account if you haven't yet. [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).
- Review your college list. How many of your schools participate with the Common Application?
- Communicate with your counselor regularly
- Map out your testing schedule for the fall and sign up. See pages 25 and 26 for SAT/ACT test dates and deadlines. This may include SAT subject tests.
- Possibly take SAT or ACT exams for the second/third time. SAT – November and December, ACT September and October
- Possibly take an SAT Subject test.
- Continue to visit college campuses
- Complete the Counselor Recommendation Request Packet as early as possible.
- Counselor Recommendation Request Packets must be submitted **one month** prior to your first college deadline.
- Counselor Recommendation - Discuss special circumstances to be addressed in recommendation.
- Teacher Recommendation - You must have a conversation with your teacher(s) this year regarding your letter of recommendation.
- After speaking with them, remember to request their recommendation through Naviance **one month** prior to your first college deadline. Always follow up with a thank you note.
- Review/Update/Finalize your college list

Is your list balanced with Reach, Target and Safety Schools?

What is the timeline of your applications?

- Review the CSS Profile on College Board. Do you have schools that participate? If yes, complete the profile as early as possible. Check college websites for specific CSS deadlines
- Attend Financial Aid Night in October/November.
- Continue searching and applying for scholarships

### ***Winter Action Items***

- Continue to work on your application(s).
- Last chances to take the SAT and/or ACT exams. SAT - December and January, ACT - December.
- Submit applications depending on your deadline.
- Continue to work hard in school. Your colleges will see Q1 grades!
- Mid-year grades will be sent to your colleges! They will see your mid-term grades!
- Continue searching and applying for scholarships
- Create a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) account. Begin working on your FAFSA. The earliest you can submit is January 1, 2016. The earlier the better! Everyone should complete the FAFSA.
- Check colleges' financial aid web pages for deadlines to submit the FAFSA, CSS Profile and any other financial aid forms.
- College decision letters will begin to arrive if you applied early.
- Update your Naviance account with your college decisions.
- Remember to send your scores directly from College Board and/or ACT to your colleges.

### ***Spring Action Items***

- College decision letters continue to arrive. May 1 is National College "Decision Day"! Notify your college/university of your decision to attend by this date.
- Update your Naviance account with your college decision.
- Carefully review your financial aid award letter. See your School Counselor with questions.
- Complete the WHS Scholarship application. You will receive more information with directions in April 2016.
- Continue searching and applying for outside scholarships.
- Submit your deposit to your selected college/university.
- Review your College Orientation dates/times. Complete the appropriate paperwork.