



# ZCHS School Counseling Department

## Junior Preparation Timeline

### August

- Schedule review: make sure your classes fulfill Core 40 (college prep), Technical Honors, or Academic Honors requirements **and** any specific requirements needed to meet admissions requirements at the colleges/universities you are considering.

### September

- Visit Naviance Family Connection to see when college admission representatives will be visiting. Sign up for college visits that are of interest.
- Schedule college campus visits. All absences count – even college visitation days.

### October

- Take the PSAT. At the junior level this test is also the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which enables students to compete for scholarships and may result in colleges contacting students directly based on their scores.
- Register to take the SAT and/or ACT at least once during the spring semester and ideally twice.
- Plan senior year courses to fulfill admission requirements of the college of your choice.
- Narrow your choices of colleges so that you can have your SAT and/or ACT scores sent to the colleges you are seriously considering. Most colleges require SAT/ACT scores to be sent directly from the testing agency. Please send test scores to colleges directly from College Board and/or ACT.
- If needed, schedule the SAT II (Achievement Tests) which are required for more competitive schools. Review admission requirements via the college/university website to see if this is necessary.

### January/February/March

- Scheduling process for senior year begins.
- Attend the financial aid meeting to gather information on the FAFSA, scholarships, grants and loans.
- Begin the application process to U.S. Military Service Academies.
- Register for ACT and/or SAT dates. Both tests are given in March, April, May and June.
- Download NCAA forms at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) if you anticipate participating in a collegiate sport.
- Add 4-6 colleges to “Colleges I am Thinking About” in Naviance Family Connection.
- Begin searching for local, state, and national scholarships for which you may qualify. Review the “scholarship” link in Naviance for national and local scholarships.
- Review other scholarship websites and Apps:  
State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana web site: [www.in.gov/ssaci/](http://www.in.gov/ssaci/); FastWeb: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com); [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com); Scholly, Inc. App

### May

- Check your schedule for next year carefully.

### Summer

- Visit campuses and explore college/university websites to obtain application and admissions information.
- Take advantage of summer programs for juniors. Check Naviance’s list of enrichment programs for local and national opportunities.