



JUNIOR YEAR
WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING?

This is your year to get everything together before senior year!

- This is the year to solidify your post-secondary options such as colleges, the military or career/technical schools. It's time for the family to talk about money and realistic options for post-secondary options.
- You'll register for the ACT and possibly make some college visits.
- It's very important to stay involved in your classes and activities. Colleges and scholarship organizations want to see consistency and commitment!

COLLEGE BOUND OR BUSINESS OR VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL?

- Either way you need to make choices and preparations.
- If you are thinking of going to career or voc/tech school you need to know test requirements and also any courses that might help you prepare in high school.

IF YOU ARE COLLEGE BOUND YOU NEED TO TAKE THE ACT!

- The ACT is an entrance test that all 4 year schools in Kansas want you to take before you enroll in college classes. Scores are used for scholarships but also for class placement.
- Qualified Admissions requirements from our state colleges states that students must have at least a composite score of 21, out of 36, IF you don't complete the QA curriculum by the time you graduate. A score of 21 is a national average, but actually a little below the Kansas average.

Do I have to take the ACT to go to Community College?

- No, and yes! If you are just taking a few classes you wish to transfer to a 4 year school then you will probably already have an ACT score or need to take it. If you plan to go full-time to community college you can just take their qualifying test, the ASSET, for class placement.

WHEN DO I TAKE THE ACT?

- Most counselors and ACT people are still recommending that juniors take the ACT starting in the spring of junior year and then in the fall of senior year.
- You can test as often as you want but at some point, unless you have a lot of variables each time you test, you really don't need to test multiple times.
- Good test preparation is the key.

How do I register for the ACT?

- The ACT is given 6 times during the year.
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- Pick a preferred test day/month.
- Go to www.actstudent.org to get registered!

What is the SAT?

- The SAT is another college entrance test that is used at some colleges in the U.S.
- Kansas schools don't require this test.

What should I be doing?!

- August – Review high school course work. Make sure you'll graduate and that you'll meet QA or KS Scholar requirements if that's your goal!

Tip – When choosing among applicants, colleges pay close attention to the kinds of courses you take during high school, your GPA's and the extracurricular activities in which you are involved. Get involved in activities and develop leadership skills.

- September – Compile a list of colleges that interest you. Go on-line and check out college websites

- October – Take the PSAT. This is a national test that is administered by the high school. Taking the PSAT is good practice for other tests, plus, you can compare your academic skills to other students across the country and it is the qualifying test for National Merit Scholar competition.
- Attend a college fair.



- November – Continue to examine college options, consider:

Location

Available Majors

Cost

Size

Reputation

Competitiveness

Community

- Do online scholarship searches. Check out www.fastweb.com and www.scholarships.com

- December 

Attend Financial Aide Night at PLHS. You and your parents can learn about what will be expected of you senior year when you actually apply for financial aid.



What is financial aid? Grants (free money), Work Study (you work to earn money) and Loans (you must pay these back with interest).

- You apply for financial aid after January 1 of senior year using the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is an online application.



- January and February

Think about scheduling college visits on in-service days or go to junior days offered by various colleges.

Register for these visits online or by phone.

You **MUST** pick up a form from me to get the visit day excused.

- Register for the April ACT

- March

Study and prepare for the spring ACT's.

Enroll for **senior** year!



Enroll in meaningful and helpful courses. **DOUBLE-CHECK THAT YOU HAVE MET QUALIFIED ADMISSIONS AND/OR KANSAS SCHOLARS REQUIREMENTS!**

Scholarship and college admission people look at your senior year courses to see what kind of motivated college student you will be!

- April

Get plenty of rest, proper nutrition and take the ACT! Manage your test time wisely.



- May / June / July
- Successfully finish your junior year and prepare for a nice summer!
- It's always good to get a volunteer position or a summer job related to your career interests for some excellent experience.
- Take college visits as you are traveling. Comparing college campuses and programs helps you learn more about what you want.

- August

SENIOR YEAR.

