



## College Planning: Junior Year

### All year:

- ❑ Challenge yourself academically; take AP, IB, and Honors courses.
  - ❑ Most colleges require:
    - ❑ 4 years of English
    - ❑ 4 years of math
    - ❑ 3 years of different lab sciences
    - ❑ 2 years of social studies
    - ❑ 2 years of the same foreign language
    - ❑ 1 year of fine art or CTE (for in state)
- ❑ Get and stay involved in activities and community service projects that interest you and seek leadership roles in those activities. You can look outside of school as well.
- ❑ Maintain a strong GPA (Grade Point Average) throughout high school by developing good study habits and a group of friends that you can study with who share the same goals for success. Remember all semester grades contribute to the overall GPA. Honors and AP classes are on a 5.0 GPA Scale and will impact your weighted GPA.
- ❑ If you start struggling in a class, be sure to talk to your teacher and get a tutor list from your counselor. If you fail or get low grades in any classes, make plans to retake them now.

### August - September:

- ❑ Make certain you are registered for the courses required for your post-secondary goals.
- ❑ Review your GPA with your counselor at the beginning of the school year to keep yourself on track.
- ❑ Update your **4 year Academic Plan**.
- ❑ Start gathering more specific information about colleges by attending college fairs, visiting with college representatives (watch for information in [Naviance/Family Connection](#) about college visits at your school).
- ❑ Use the **college search** in Naviance/Family Connection to create a **list of colleges you are interested in**.
- ❑ Review your career interests and make sure the colleges or vocational programs you are interested in have applicable degree programs.

- ❑ Continue using [Method Test Prep](#) to prepare for the PSAT exam the second week of October.
- ❑ Plan the next 2 years of extracurricular and community service activities. Focus on becoming a leader.
- ❑ Read all college related literature sent to you. BEWARE of anything that costs you money! Check with your counselor if you have questions.
- ❑ Update your electronic profile in Naviance/Family Connections.
  - ❑ **Resume**- helps you track the classes and activities you have participated in; such as Honors, AP classes, GPA, Clubs/Organizations, Leadership positions, sports, performing arts, speech and debate, community service, volunteer work, awards, etc. (this information will be needed when you complete your Personal Statement and Letters of Recommendations during your junior or senior year).
  - ❑ **Game Plan**- is your goals, plans and personal information.

## October:

- ❑ Take the PSAT to be considered for the National Merit Scholarship.
- ❑ Prepare to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You and your parents will need to apply for a FAFSA (FSA) ID: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
- ❑ To get to the FAFSA form and to get further information about completing the FAFSA go to: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- ❑ Continue researching colleges.
- ❑ Set up a college specific email that you can receive information without overwhelming your pvlerners email.

## November:

- ❑ Get to know your favorite teachers and start thinking about which ones you might ask to write your recommendations if needed.
- ❑ Have a serious discussion with your family about how you will pay for college and look up scholarships. Find **Scholarship List** on Family Connection, under College tab.

## December:

- ❑ Update your **resume**, continue researching colleges and scholarships.
- ❑ Visit colleges outside of the Phoenix area in the Winter to see if you can manage a different environment as a college student.

The bolded items are an ECAP (Education and Career Action Plan) requirement through the AZ State Department of Education. Paradise Valley School district provides Naviance/Family Connection for all of our high school students to have a digital portfolio of the required items and provide students and parents with a tool for career and college planning and research. Method Test Prep is an online test preparation program provided to the students of Paradise Valley Unified School District.

## January:

- ❑ Begin narrowing down the number of schools on your list on Naviance/Family Connection.
- ❑ Check the **Scholarship List** in Naviance/Family Connection and search for scholarships which you feel are a good match for you. Read the criteria to see if there is anything that you need to complete, or participate in that you would have to have done before applying. If you wait until your senior year, you may not have enough time to complete the requirements.
- ❑ Register to take the SAT or ACT. Take either one or both of these tests during your Junior year so you can retake (if applicable) the beginning of your Senior year. Be aware of registration deadlines. Request your scores to be sent to colleges/NCAA when you register.
  - ❑ For students who take the SAT in January, May or October, the College Board offers what it calls its **Question-and-Answer Service or QAS**. There is a fee for this service and it is usually around \$20 extra. With the Question-and-Answer Service, you'll get:
    - ❑ A copy of the SAT questions for the specific testing administration.
    - ❑ A record of your answers, the correct answers, and additional scoring instructions.
    - ❑ Information about the type of test questions and levels of difficulty of the questions.
  - ❑ SAT- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
  - ❑ ACT- [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
  - ❑ Use Method Test Prep to study for the SAT/ACT.
  - ❑ If you are taking the SAT use the results of your PSAT test and the link on the results for individualized practice.

## February:

- ❑ Continue researching potential colleges and universities. There are many factors to consider when choosing where to apply. **Compare colleges** on Naviance/Family Connections.
- ❑ Register for AP tests (if applicable).

## March:

- ❑ Plan a college visit during Spring Break if possible.

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- Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse if you are interested in college athletics. Go to [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) for more information.
- Register for the SAT II subject tests if required by your potential colleges. Visit your college's websites to see if this is required.
- Find out if your potential colleges have a writing component of the application and begin working on that requirement.

## April:

- Continue researching and narrowing down your college list on Naviance/Family Connection.
- Continue to update your **Resume** and **Game Plan**
- Sign up for Pre-College or Enrichment Programs at the colleges you are interested in attending.
- Search **Scholarships** on Naviance/Family Connection and start making plans for gathering the information required to apply for those scholarships.

## MAY:

- Take AP exams (if applicable). AP exams are end of course assessments and should be taken in the same school year you took the AP course(s).
- Take final projects/tests very seriously.

## Summer:

- Visit Colleges
- Narrow down careers/majors.
- Repeat a class (if necessary).
- Volunteer, get a job, take a college class.
- Think about your counselor and teacher recommendations and finish the resume on Naviance/Family Connection to print and start thinking about what you want included in your personal profile.
- Continue searching for scholarships and check application windows are opened (and closed).
- Review the SAT or ACT results and determine if you should retake them in the Fall.

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