

# *Junior Year Checklist*

- Attend junior night.
- Attend college fairs either locally or virtually. The area's college fair is held at USI in October. <https://www.collegefairguide.com/>
- Meet with your counselor or college and career coach to discuss dual credit and AP opportunities. Take advantage of these. Keep track of what you have taken as you will need to send college transcripts and AP scores to the college you will be attending to get credit. When you apply for colleges, they may ask for this information also.
- Continue researching careers that interest you - explore all options that seem appealing to you. Speak with professionals in these fields and consider job shadowing or interviewing them.
  - Keep in mind that 67% of new jobs will require more than a high school diploma.
- Research majors related to those careers and what the schooling requirements for those majors might be
  - Start looking for colleges that have your desired major; plus, begin to consider what other factors are important to you in a potential school.
  - Remember when searching for schools that attending an in-state public school can cut down on tuition costs.
  - Don't rule out private schools; see what scholarships and financial aid are offered after you complete the FAFSA your senior year.
  - Consider beginning at a community college whether you take general education courses, get an associate degree then go to work, or get an associate degree then transfer. Some programs can be done tuition free.
  - Attend local college fairs such as the one held at USI usually in October, or look into attending virtual college fairs. <https://www.collegefairguide.com/>
  - Are you taking classes beneficial for this major or the college you hope to attend? If you are college bound, it is suggested that you take 4 years of math.
- Take the PSAT in October (this can qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship)
  - Use this page to study.  
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice>
- Prepare for the SAT and/or ACT by taking a practice test.
  - Use your PSAT scores to help you prepare for the SAT. The College Board website offers personalized study tools based on your individual PSAT scores. Directions are at the bottom of the page.  
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>
  - <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice>
  - <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html>

- Meet with college admission representatives who come to the high school. Find out what they look for in potential students and how you can set yourself up for admission and success at their university.
- Get involved, stay involved. Continue volunteering or taking leadership positions in your activities. Step outside of your comfort zone and try something new! You may be pleasantly surprised.
- Look into various scholarship opportunities - some scholarships are eligible for juniors to apply. During this process, you can also see scholarships that you can apply for your senior year. Beware that some scholarship websites are scams.
  - <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-grade-level/high-school-scholarships/scholarships-for-high-school-juniors/>
  - <https://www.communityfoundationalliance.org/posey/>
  - <https://www.fastweb.com/>
  - <https://pages.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
  - <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types>
  - <https://www.scholarships.com/scholarship-search>
  - Check the websites of the colleges in which you're interested.
- Register to take the SAT and/or ACT either spring semester or during the summer (Plan to take these exams more than once, if possible despite many colleges being test optional.)
  - Some scholarships have an early fall deadline senior year and require SAT/ACT scores
  - Have scores you are satisfied with by November 1 for colleges that have an early action application deadline. (Do not apply early decision; it is binding. Ask about it first if you are interested.)
- Continue working hard in your classes. Colleges look at the type of courses you are taking just as much as your GPA so challenge yourself!
  - Get the best GPA you can. It can provide you the best opportunity to be admitted to your top college.
- Take advantage of your college visit day. Juniors are allowed 1 college visit. Follow the high school's college visit guidelines. You can also look for special weekend events.
- Start thinking about your classes for senior year and make sure you have everything you need for college admission.
  - Look at the universities you are interested in and make sure you have taken, or will take, the classes they require for admission
- Register for the NCAA or NAIA eligibility center if playing sports in college
- Update your brag sheet! This will be a great resource for you when you start scholarship applications.
- Begin making a calendar to keep yourself organized regarding college applications and scholarship deadlines.

- Start considering who might be a good fit for recommendation letters (it's helpful to split these between school personnel and community members like employers or youth group leaders)
- Start drafting application essays this summer
- Every college is different, so get informed about the colleges in which you are interested.
- Meet with Mrs. Rose, the College and Career Coach, if you have questions.

## Helpful Websites

- <https://www.mynextmove.org/> - Career interest profiler (No account to set up but if you want to return to a page later, click Share, Email, and enter your personal email. It sends a link to that page.)
- <https://learnmoreindiana.org/> - Learn more about careers, college, and cost.
- <https://www.howtobecome.com/> - Provides information on certain careers and find advice from people in those careers.
- <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> - search majors and state(s) and find colleges that offer a specific major (not a perfect site but is a good tool)
- <https://www.builttosucceed.org/> - Information on apprenticeship/union programs
- <https://indianacareerexplorer.com/#SplitModal> - career exploration
- <https://indianacareerready.com/> - information about high wage, high demand jobs
- <https://www.indianacareerconnect.com/vosnet/Default.aspx>

## Additional Suggestions

1. Go to school: attendance is very important (get better grades and show employers you are dependable)
2. Get organized: write down assignments; use color coded folders for each class; keep notes, tests, quizzes and homework so you can refer back to them as needed
3. Write down your assignments throughout the day and look at the list before you leave school to prevent forgetting needed materials.
4. Do your homework. Missing assignments are detrimental to your grades.
5. Ask for help right away if you need it.
6. Avoid drama. Surround yourself with others who make good decisions.

If you have questions, see Mrs. Rose located in the Counseling Office.

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Call or text my Google Voice number: 812-266-0330