

College Prep

Preparing for college during your junior year of high school is crucial. Here are some **important tasks** you can focus on:

- 1. Take Advanced Courses:** Consider enrolling in **AP (Advanced Placement)**, **IB (International Baccalaureate)**, or other specialized elective classes. These courses can help you explore different subjects and give you a taste of what you might like to study in college. They also demonstrate your academic rigor to college admissions officers¹².
- 2. Talk to College Students:** Reach out to current college students. They can provide valuable insights about campus life, classes, and other aspects of the college experience. Ask questions about factors like campus size, academic programs, and boarding options¹.
- 3. Build Your Credentials:**
 - Keep track of your extracurricular awards and community service achievements.
 - Create a resume that highlights your activities and accomplishments.
 - Begin preparing for standardized tests like the **ACT** or **SAT**².
- 4. Explore Career Options:**
 - Consider “job shadowing” someone in a field you’re interested in.
 - Volunteer in your community to gain practical experience.
 - Start thinking about potential career paths and how they align with different majors².
- 5. Evaluate Education Options:**
 - Research different types of colleges: vocational-technical schools, career colleges, two-year or four-year colleges, and military colleges.
 - Attend college fairs and speak to representatives from colleges that interest you.
 - Plan campus visits to get a feel for different campuses².

6. Stay on Track with Classes and Grades:

- Make sure you're enrolled in the right classes to prepare for college or a career.
- Continue building relationships with your teachers, as they'll likely write your letters of recommendation².

7. Prepare for Standardized Tests:

- Start studying for the **SAT**, **ACT**, and **AP exams** early in the school year.
- Take the **PSAT** to practice for the SAT.
- Mark important test dates on your calendar².

8. Continue Involvement in Extracurricular Activities:

- Seek leadership roles within clubs or organizations.
- Document any awards or involvements for future reference².

Remember, junior year is a critical time for college preparation. By taking these steps, you'll be well on your way to a successful college application process!

College Prep for Juniors in High School

Junior year is an important and often busy year for high school students who are preparing for college. There are so many important things to do, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. Parents and students can work together to ensure that they are on track in preparation for college. Commit to staying organized and proactive as you make the most of your junior year of high school.

11 Ways to College Prep as a Junior in High School

1. Carefully select challenging junior year courses
2. Prepare for the October PSAT NMSQT
3. Research scholarships and apply to ones for which you are qualified
4. Determine a "good fit" major/career
5. Research colleges and organize your information

6. Visit colleges and universities
7. Prepare for and take college entrance exams
8. Meet regularly with your guidance counselor, teachers, and other mentors
9. Talk regularly with your parents about the future
10. Pursue and record extracurricular interests
11. Plan to use your summer wisely

Carefully select challenging junior year courses

An important part of college prep is your academic preparation. The courses you take when you are a junior in high school are typically the last courses to show on your transcript when it's time to have your guidance counselor send it to your selected colleges and universities. Junior year is a great time to take Honors, AP (Advanced Placement) or other college prep classes. Often your transcript will be evaluated not only for grades but for demonstration of "rigor" -- which describes the level of difficulty of your classes. Rigor demonstrates to colleges and universities that you are willing and able to work hard. The challenging classes can help ensure that you are academically prepared for college classes.

Which challenging classes should you take in your junior year? Consider courses that relate to the college major you are considering. Look for classes that will help you learn and develop your writing and critical thinking skills, as admissions counselors know that these skills are crucial for you to succeed in college. AP courses have the added benefit of allowing you to earn college credit by passing the corresponding AP exam. If your secondary school offers dual enrollment or concurrent classes, this is another option for getting a head start on earning college credit.

Be realistic when you build your schedule. In some instances, it may be better to take an easier course than one that is too challenging. You will have a lot to juggle during your junior year and it's important to maintain a good GPA. Don't forget to check with your guidance counselor to learn about required courses and make sure that you are on track for graduation requirements.

Prepare for the October PSAT NMSQT

Your high school will probably offer the PSAT exam in October. Check with your guidance counselor to make sure of the time and details of the exam. The PSAT is a College Board exam, the same organization that offers the SAT, and an important college admissions exam. Taking the PSAT when you are a junior in high school allows you to be considered for the National Merit Scholarship Program. It is one of the first standardized tests you will take that has the possibility of monetary benefit if your score is high enough.

If you typically score well on standardized exams, it is worth your while to spend time preparing for the PSAT, either through prep classes or an on-line PSAT prep program. You can earn up to a full-tuition scholarship at certain universities if you are a National Merit Finalist. The PSAT is also excellent practice for upcoming entrance exams and can help you know how best to study for the SAT.

Research scholarships and apply to ones for which you are qualified

Throughout your junior year, it can pay off to watch for any college scholarships. Some private college scholarships, even competitive full-tuition scholarships, are *only* open to juniors. Also, research and prepare for any upcoming **scholarships** that are only available for seniors. Consider academic scholarships, athletic scholarships, music scholarships, leadership scholarships, and departmental scholarships. Learn the necessary qualifications and deadlines so you will be ready when the time comes to apply.

Determine a "good fit" major and career

Hopefully, by the time you are a junior in high school, you are able to identify your interests, passions, and abilities. Now is the time to consider how they point to a particular major and future career. To help you determine a good fit major and career, it is helpful to talk with parents, teachers, mentors, and your school guidance counselor. What have you most enjoyed learning about so far? What activities have been most important to you in high school? Look for opportunities to learn more about a career, such as setting up a job shadow experience or volunteer work. Try to meet with a member of your community who works in your area of interest. Throughout your junior year, take time to ask people you meet about their careers: what they like, what is challenging, and how they started their

careers. Continue to narrow down your choice of a career and major but stay open to new ideas.

Research colleges and organize your information

You can learn a lot about colleges and universities by spending time browsing their websites. Create a document so you can keep notes and organize the information you learn about each school. Some of the necessary items to research and record are the school's **application checklist and timeline**. This includes helpful important information about the admissions process, admissions deadlines, academic requirements, college essays required, scholarship opportunities, and standardized tests required—including test scores. Add important information to your document, such as details about the curriculum offered in a specific major, opportunities available to pursue activities you enjoy, and ideas for building your community on campus or living in the residence halls.

Visit colleges and universities

Although you can learn much from a college website, the best way to get a true feel for the campus is to plan a college visit. Junior year is the ideal time to visit the schools that interest you. Try to schedule trips around a holiday so you don't miss too much class time at your high school. While parents can help to plan the visit, it is helpful if the student independently sets up as much as possible, such as contacting the college admissions office and requesting a **campus tour**. Another important appointment to schedule is with the college's financial aid office.

Sometimes, schools will allow you to spend a night in the residence halls or sit in on a class lecture. Try to schedule your visit while the college is in session. Hopefully, you can meet students on campus who will share what it is like to attend that school and help you get a feel for the vibe of the campus. Ask yourself, "Can I imagine living and studying here for four years?" Take notes and photos while you are on campus to help you remember the significant parts of your visit.

Prepare for and take college entrance exams

There are two main college entrance exams, the ACT and the SAT. Most colleges and universities in the United States will accept either test. However, some schools will recommend or require that you also take the optional writing section of the ACT or SAT. If you need to take the writing section, remember to select that

option when you register for the test. Registration is done on-line and will require a credit card for payment, as well as a copy of your photo ID.

When you register, there is an option to have your scores sent for free to the colleges of your choice. This is a cost-effective method of sending your scores to schools, but you won't know what your score is prior to it being sent. The alternative is to send your scores to colleges later, though there is typically a \$15 fee per test score submission.

You may also choose to take the SAT Subject Tests, which certain schools may require or recommend. These are best taken immediately after finishing the related course. For example, if you take AP Chemistry your junior year, you should register for the Chemistry SAT Subject Test offered in May or June.

The goal should be to complete your college entrance exams by the summer after your junior year. Since many students find it beneficial to take the ACT or SAT more than once, you should take your first college entrance exam by the spring of your junior year, and perhaps earlier.

Look for ways to prepare for college entrance exams, such as on-line resources, tutoring, classes, or a workbook. Ask your guidance counselor for suggestions and find out whether your school offers a test prep program that can teach students test strategies and review important areas covered by the entrance exam. Some methods of preparation work better for some students than others. If you try something and are not finding it as helpful as you hoped, try something else. Make sure you know what to bring and what to expect prior to showing up for your exam.

Meet regularly with your guidance counselor, teachers, and other mentors

There are many reasons to regularly meet with your guidance counselor, teachers, and mentors. These people can be excellent resources as you choose the right major and career. They may be able to provide unique opportunities for you to explore your areas of interest. Let them know what you are considering pursuing and get their input. They may also be able to recommend colleges and universities that will appeal to your interests.

Another important reason to meet regularly with your guidance counselor, teachers, and other mentors is that you will likely need them to write letters of

recommendation for you as part of your college admissions process. They can write a much more compelling letter if they know you well and understand your unique strengths. A strong letter of recommendation can go a long way with college admissions counselors. By the end of your junior year, you should have confirmed who will be writing your letters of recommendation and make sure everyone is aware of this expectation.

Talk regularly with your parents about the future

Your parents can provide excellent advice and guidance regarding opportunities to consider and strengths to develop. After all, they have known you longer than anyone else. Keep your parents involved in the things you are learning, exploring, and the ways you are developing your passions and interests. During your junior year, you can plan college visits with your parents and work together to schedule your college entrance exams.

Your parents may have definite ideas regarding your future college and career choices—these are important things to talk about. You will also need to discuss plans for paying for college, plans for applying for financial aid, and other issues, such as having a vehicle during your college years.

Pursue and record extracurricular interests

By the time you start your junior school year, you should have an idea of what extracurricular activities are most important to you. Now is the time to make sure you have a detailed record of all your activities, including athletics, leadership roles, community service, and work experience that you have engaged in since the start of high school. You will likely be asked about these activities in college applications and scholarship applications.

As you look at your extracurricular record, think about the areas that are meaningful to you, and look for opportunities to develop these during your junior year. Can you take on a leadership role in a group or club? Maybe you can assume more responsibility or help to train younger participants. Brainstorm ways that you can make an impact at your school or in your community. Organizing a fundraiser or service project is a wonderful experience and looks great as part of your extracurricular record. Typically, it is better to have a few things in which you have invested deeply rather than a multitude of activities in which you have only

participated once or twice. Now is the time to focus and be passionate about the activities that are most important to you.

Plan to use your summer wisely

Colleges begin accepting applications towards the end of the summer following your junior year. You may be able to determine earlier which college essays you will need to write. If you can start working on your essays during the summer, you will have a lot less stress when your senior year begins in the fall.

By the end of the summer, you should know the schools where you are applying. Create an admissions checklist for each school that includes all the necessary components of the admissions process, as well as deadlines. This can include letters of recommendation, essays, portfolios, auditions, test scores, academic transcripts, financial aid and scholarship applications, interviews, and application fees.

Your checklist should include a section where you indicate the current status of each step. It is one thing to ask a teacher to write a letter of recommendation, but it is quite another to ensure the school has received it. Since you will be very busy in the fall of your senior year with college applications, it is important to be as organized as possible by the end of the summer.

Many universities will offer summer sessions for students who have finished their junior or senior year. Depending on your interests, you may be able to participate in research, take classes, attend lectures, or join a creative writing seminar. Most program applications, which are typically available in the spring of your junior year. If you don't find an academic program that interests you, consider looking for a job or an internship with a company, individual, or charity. Even an unpaid internship is a great way to invest in your future.

Junior in High School - College Prep

Junior year in high school is an important time for college preparation. Make the most of your opportunities but realize that you can't do everything. As you prioritize and manage your time, you will be building skills that will help you in college. If you haven't started using a calendar or scheduling app, practice using one during your junior year so you can depend on it in your senior year. Start thinking about the people that mean the most to you in high school. You have two

years left to develop friendships and mentoring relationships before you take off for college.

Remember that you don't have to face the challenges of junior year alone. Talk to your parents and other people you trust and respect. Enlist support and help with the things that you find difficult. College prep is about more than just passing tests and getting high grades. It is about preparing for your future and developing into a person who is passionate about learning, growing, and contributing to your community.

12 Tips for High School Juniors to Prep for College

1. Embrace Academic Rigor

One of the cornerstones of a strong college application is a challenging academic record. Here are a few ways to do just that:

1. Enroll in advanced college prep courses, AP courses
2. Take advantage of dual enrollment programs where you can take college classes to earn college credits while still in high school. You can find these at local colleges, community colleges, or even online.
3. Explore Challenging & Unique Courses. Some examples of this may be more challenging AP courses, like AP Computer Science Principles, AP Psychology, or AP Art History. Some other unique avenues may consist of STEM courses through online resources like Coursera, edX, Udacity, Codecademy, and MIT OpenCourseWare.

Demonstrating your ability to tackle rigorous coursework can impress admissions committees. It shows how you can step out of your comfort zone as well as highlights your commitment to learning.

2. Strategizing Your Test Preparation Is Essential

Begin early with standardized tests like the ACT or SAT. Build a structured study routine and steady practice to enhance your scores. Aim to finish testing before senior year to ease application stress and plan for retakes.

Also, be sure to set goals! During the summer **before** Junior year, set score goals based on college competitiveness, then create a solid study plan, use dependable

resources, identify strengths and weaknesses, practice consistently with error analysis, seek assistance when necessary, simulate test environments, monitor progress, strategically schedule test dates, prioritize your well-being, and culminate with a final review.

As long as you put in the time and effort, you should be well prepared for the first round of test-taking with enough time to retest if needed.

3. Pursue Relevant Internships

Securing internships related to your intended major can provide invaluable hands-on experience and insight into your chosen field. Not only do internships enhance your resume, but they also demonstrate your proactive approach to learning beyond the classroom.

Ask your parents, guardians, or anyone you know in the working world if they know anyone in your desired field. Or create a LinkedIn to help with making connections that could lead to an online or in-person internship.

This internship should be in the major or field that you're interested in pursuing after college - or at least want to try out before you spend thousands of dollars pursuing a degree in it.

Some examples may include opportunities at companies like Google, NASA, or even a local engineering firm if you're interested in engineering. Microsoft, Apple, Coca-Cola, Disney, Deloitte, and JP Morgan Chase could all be good big-name options for those interested in pursuing business or marketing. Or for the science-minded students, maybe check out the World Health Organization (WHO) or local research universities. Some less competitive ones may be your local community college or a friend's parent who is in finance. Or work for a local entrepreneur if you hope to one day work for yourself.

Make sure you add value and have the aptitude to take a project from start to finish and excel! This could also lead to a strong college essay in the future!

4. Engage In Meaningful Volunteer Work

Showcase your empathy and community involvement through *purposeful* volunteer experiences. Participating in initiatives aligned with your interests can demonstrate your commitment to making a positive impact on the world around you.

Think about how your volunteer work can be unique. Since many teens tutor children, can you think of who else in your community needs help? Think outside the box and see where you can take the initiative. Look at what's trending career wise over the next few years. How can you volunteer in those realms now (ex. AI)?

5. Seize Leadership Opportunities

Joining clubs and organizations and actively seeking leadership roles within them can display your leadership skills and your ability to collaborate with others. Leadership roles also reflect your commitment to your extracurricular pursuits.

We recommend picking one or two clubs you are the most passionate about at your school - don't stretch yourself too thin! Then, do your best to attend all their meetings and events. The goal is not to diversify here but to find something you're *passionate* about and proceed into an elected cabinet position in the club during your senior year! What projects and events can you coordinate, or what difference can you make in the club that you can brag about later?

1. Conduct Thorough College Research

Begin researching potential colleges early on. Consider factors such as location, size, programs, academics, major, athletic/school spirit and overall campus culture and diversity to find institutions that align with your aspirations and values. Creating a balanced list of reach, match, and safety schools is crucial.

Let's talk Google sheets! In the rows of a table, write down all the aspects of a college you should consider. The list above should help, but add in any other factors that are important to you. Examples could include tuition or financial aid, graduation rates, class sizes, or religious beliefs.

Then going across the table, write down 15-30 schools in the columns. Fill out each cell with the corresponding school and metric. This exercise will help you understand which factors are most important to you and which to weight more or less heavily when deciding. Once you're done, you'll have an excellent understanding of where each of these schools fall and how many of the ones you are considering are reach, match, and safety schools!

1. Cultivate Relationships

Connect with teachers, mentors, and school counselors who can provide guidance and write compelling letters of recommendation for your college

applications. Building strong relationships can make a significant difference in your application's impact.

Take advantage of your teacher's office hours! This is where you will stand out like almost no other students do. Here you can simply work on your homework, but also try to ask them questions about the subject they're teaching and start a conversation that way. Having those conversations outside of regular class time can lead to them writing an outstanding letter of recommendation for you come application time!

1. Craft Your Personal Statement

Start brainstorming ideas and drafting your personal statement well before application deadlines. Your personal statement is an opportunity to showcase your unique experiences, values, and aspirations. It's your chance to stand out from the crowd and make a memorable impression.

Experiencing writer's block? Put grades and GPAs aside and try to think about how you're different from everyone else. How do other people describe you? What do you do that other people don't? What hobbies or activities do you enjoy, or excel at, that others do not? This is the time to look at your life as a whole and write from a personal point of view on what makes you unique in this world. It doesn't need to be tied to class.

1. Develop An Impressive Resume

Create a comprehensive college resume that highlights your academic achievements, extracurricular activities, internships, volunteer work, and leadership roles. A well-structured resume can succinctly present your accomplishments to admissions committees.

Believe me - you've done more than you think! If you're not sure what to put on your resume, beyond the basics, consider language proficiencies (does your family speak a different language?), hackathons and competitions, skills on specific platforms, and maybe transformative classes you've taken that don't fall under the standard high school curriculum.

1. Explore Campuses

Attend college fairs and schedule college tours to get a feel for different institutions. These visits can help you assess whether a college's atmosphere,

student body, and environment align with your preferences and personality. Oftentimes, students have a view of what a college is like, but it's much different once you actually step foot on campus and into lecture halls.

When should you visit?

The best option is to attend these during your sophomore year so you know ahead of time which universities you're going to apply to. After, visit again in the fall semester of your junior year so you can get more of an understanding of what major exactly you might want to enroll in, what clubs you are interested in joining, and even what building you want to live in your freshmen year!

1. Uncover Scholarship Opportunities

Begin researching scholarship options early in your junior year. Scholarships can significantly alleviate the financial burden of higher education. Be sure to note the application deadlines and requirements for each scholarship opportunity.

Search several scholarship search platforms, including our [scholarship finder tool](#), to find several that you qualify for. It won't help if you just apply for one or two. Make a spreadsheet and get those applications in! If you start applying sophomore or junior year, you could apply to just one a week to severely increasing your chances of gaining financial aid before applications. And don't forget to check out our [guide on how to really dominate your scholarship applications](#).

Also note, this is where you're going to need letters of recommendation most. Identify three writers and ask if you can use their letter of recommendation for more than one scholarship application.

1. Hone Time Management Skills

Develop strong time management skills to juggle your academic commitments, extracurricular involvement, test preparation, and application tasks. Effective time management will help you navigate this demanding process while maintaining your well-being.

Try different time management styles to find out what works best for you. One common technique is the Pomodoro method. This is where you break your study or work sessions into focused intervals, typically 25 minutes, followed by a 5-minute break. After completing four intervals, take a longer break of about 15-30

minutes. This technique enhances productivity by leveraging focused work and regular breaks. Not feeling it? Time blocking and the Eisenhower Matrix are also great options to try!

Junior Year FAQ's

- **Why is junior year the hardest?**
 - Junior year is challenging due to a combination of factors. It's when students often take advanced courses like APs to demonstrate academic rigor, while also preparing for standardized tests like the SAT/ACT. Balancing coursework, test prep, extracurriculars, and college research can be overwhelming. Many students load advanced classes in junior year to show growth and perform well on applications. This intense year sets the stage for college admissions, making time management crucial.
- **How many APs should I take during my junior year?**
 - The number of AP courses you should take during junior year depends on your academic strengths, interests, and how well you can manage the workload. It's important not to overwhelm yourself; quality over quantity matters. Consider your ability to balance AP courses with other commitments and ensure you're still able to excel. Some students take 2-4 APs, while others may take more or fewer based on their individual circumstances and academic competitive aspirations. It's better to take a few and nail them than taking a full load and just doing average.
- **Should I start applying to colleges/scholarships junior year?**
 - While most college applications are submitted during senior year, you can certainly start preparing for the process during junior year. Use this time to research colleges, explore different options, and draft your personal statement. As for scholarships, start researching opportunities and their deadlines during junior year. Some scholarships may have early deadlines, so getting a head start can give you an advantage.
- **When should I start visiting colleges?**
 - Visiting colleges can provide valuable insights into campus life, facilities, and the overall environment. Sophomore year is a good time to start

visiting colleges, especially during school breaks or summer vacation, but you should visit your top choices again in the fall of Junior year if they're accessible. This gives you ample time to explore a variety of campuses, narrow down your choices, and gather information that will help you make informed decisions when it's time to apply.

In the journey toward college admissions, junior year emerges as a pivotal phase that lays the groundwork for success. Navigating this crucial year requires a *multi-faceted* approach, encompassing academic excellence, extracurricular engagement, test preparation, and college exploration. By embracing all these different aspects, juniors can craft a compelling narrative for their college applications. With dedication, strategic planning, and a resilient spirit, juniors can confidently navigate this transformative year and embark on a rewarding journey toward their dream colleges and future endeavors.

A COMPLETE COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST: HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR YEAR

SHOULD BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR YEAR:

- Meet your guidance counselor
- Get involved in extracurricular activities
- Consider a college savings plan and add to an existing one if you have already have one started
- Getting involved: Continue to build your credentials- Keep track of your extracurricular awards, community service achievements, and anything else you participate in
- Create your resume
- Begin getting ready for the **ACT**
- Stay on track with your courses: Talk with your guidance counselor to make sure you're enrolled in the classes you need to prepare you for college or a career

- Explore your career options in more detail: “Job shadow” someone who does what you think you’d like to do
- Volunteer in your community
 - Start your college search

FALL:

- Start studying for the **SAT/ACT, SAT Subject Tests and AP exams** as soon as **the school year begins**
- Take the PSAT
- Stay on track with your classes and grades
- Have your child **study for the ACT/SAT**
- Make a list of potential colleges you would like to attend
- Make sure your resume is up-to-date and continue updating it throughout the year
- Create a document of any awards and involvements to use in the future
- Evaluate education options: vocational-technical school, career college, or two-year or four-year college, military college
- Discuss careers and which majors can lead there
- Gather college information: Attend college fairs, college nights and speak to representatives from colleges that attend your high school
- Begin planning campus visits
- Mark the dates on a calendar for upcoming tests: SAT, ACT, and AP exams
- Continue involvement in extracurricular and volunteer activities and seek leadership roles
- Continue building relationships with your teachers as 11th grade teachers are the ones that you will most likely ask for letters of recommendation
- Read as much as possible: Expand your outside reading list

- If a **course member**, begin watching videos, implementing action items as you go
- **Apply for scholarships as many allow juniors to apply**

WINTER:

- Stay involved with extracurricular activities
- Study for the ACT/SAT
- Getting involved: Holidays and winter break are great times to volunteer
- Organize your college information
- Start narrowing down your college choices: if you haven't already start planning some college visits
- Note merit scholarship requirements for these colleges
- Continue discussing careers and corresponding majors
- Shadow career fields
- Prepare for standardized tests: research the test requirements of the colleges you wish to attend (SAT, ACT, or SAT Subject Tests) and **register for the tests**
- Learn more about financial aid
- Apply for scholarships: find scholarships with little competition but can fund a free ride
- Start planning for a productive summer: Check on internship deadlines
- If a **course member**, winter break is a great time to implement a large portion of the materials

SPRING:

- Getting involved: Some schools allow new members to join after winter break
- Prepare your class schedule for senior year: stick with a schedule that challenges you versus all easy classes/meet with your school counselor to discuss your options

- Consider ways to earn college credit via **Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, CLEP, or Dual Enrollment courses**
- Continue your scholarship search and apply: find scholarships with little competition BUT will fund a free ride
- Contact your letter of recommendation writers: employer, coach, activity leader, or adult who knows you well outside of school
- Check for local scholarships in the guidance office before school year ends
- Apply for a summer internship or job
- Set up appointments at your top college choices including a personal interview, tour of the campus and meet with a professor/coach

SUMMER:

- Visit Colleges: Visit the top 5 campuses on your list
- Work a summer job to gain experience, build a resume, and save money for college
- **Maximize summer** to build competitiveness
- Talk to others about their experience in college especially if the student is attending a college on your list
- Organize your **financial aid information**
- Start working on your college application essays: Have a teacher read and discuss the essays with you
- Continue to pursue scholarship opportunities and apply! *Junior year summer is ideal for mastering the scholarship process, slowly working through the **6-step process** Doing so over the summer means you can have materials ready to reuse for senior year!
- Letters of Recommendation: Request these letters with at least a 2-week notice
- Develop a strong personal statement for scholarships
- Retake the SAT/ACT to improve score

- Finalize personal statement based on junior year
- Write down all deadlines for FAFSA, admissions applications and scholarships (including state-based and merit-based scholarships)

It's easy to get caught up in all the college prep but don't forget to cheer your student throughout the process. They have worked so incredibly hard to get here and deserve TONS of praise for their efforts and hard work!