

Junior Presentation Handout

It's time for you, as a junior in high school, to begin preparing for your future. Graduation is about a year and a half away! For those of you looking to attend college, or enter into a military academy, the planning begins now! Students who would like to pursue a trade or enter the workforce, it is important that you begin your preparation now as well.

The College Board, the organization who created the SAT tests, has a great website for our college-bound students: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/>. It reviews the important issues to think about when choosing a school and offers students search-tools for determining what kind of school works best for you. You may also access Naviance, via the HHS website, to begin your college/career search.

Some important things to think about:

SAT I and SAT II (Subject Test) dates and deadlines: SEE HANDOUTS

SAT Website: www.collegeboard.com

ACT Website: www.actstudent.org

Students will receive a pass to attend this conference. If you are not scheduled as quickly as you'd like, please see your counselor to coordinate an earlier meeting, especially if you want to review your PSAT results by the January testing date. We will try to accommodate you.

Junior year test scores are critical for applications to military academies, Penn State-main campus, and schools which you may want to apply as "early decision" common tests are English (writing), science, and math. A student can take up to 3 tests in one sitting.

"Early Action" applications are those which are sent in and responded to at an earlier deadline than regular admission. Not all schools offer this option.

"Early Decision" applications are those which are sent in and responded to at an earlier deadline than regular admission. This application, if accepted, would act as a binding contract with this school, which the student would definitely be attending there in the fall, upon high school graduation. All other applications that have been processed by other schools would have to be withdrawn. Students applying early decision should be completely sure that this school is their top choice.

NCAA Clearinghouse – If you are planning to play DIV I or DIV II athletics, you must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse for an on-line application, go to: <http://eligibilitycenter.org>.

A "safety" school is one which the student's credentials are within a range above what the college is looking.

A "target" school is one which the student's credentials are within a range above or below what the college is looking.

A "reach" school is one which the student's credentials are below what the college is looking for. Ivy League schools are reach schools for all applicants, as their applicant pool is made up of top students from all over the country and the world.

When choosing colleges, these are some of the things you should consider:

- In what region of the country do I want to attend college?
- What type of school do I want to attend (2 years, 4 years, technical school, military, etc)?
- How big would I like my school to be (under 1,000, students, 1001-4999, 5000-9999, etc)?
- What majors am I considering?
- Do I want to play sports in college?
- Based on GPA and test scores, how competitive should the school I apply to be?
- What extracurricular activities do I want to participate in?

All juniors will be scheduled for an individual conference with their counselor of record during the 2nd and 3rd marking periods to:

- Review transcript and course selection for accuracy and credits needed for graduation
- Compile/complete activity list
- Generate an initial list of post-secondary schools
- Discuss planning needs tailored to each student

Students may continue to use Naviance, an online career guidance program that is available to assist counselors, students, and parents twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Naviance provides students access to several career/interest inventories as well as a college search program. There are many other tools to assist with college and career exploration. Students may access Naviance by following the steps below:

1. Go to <https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/auth/login/?hsid=henderson>
2. Enter the following information as provided to you:

USERNAME: your school email address up to the @ symbol

PASSWORD: Student ID number (the one you would use in the cafe.)