

11th Grade Checklist

Junior year is a key year in the college planning process because you will be taking standardized tests, narrowing down your college list, and learning more about financial aid. In addition, you should stay involved in your high school courses and activities.

FALL

Evaluate your postsecondary options

Now is the time to follow a more specific path. Decide whether you want to pursue full-time employment, further education or training, or a military career. Speak with your NHS Guidance Counselor about starting applications.

- Mrs. Natasha Cheggeh is the Guidance Counselor for students with the last name beginning with A – L (email: cheggehnd@gm.sbac.edu)
- Mrs. Jessica Ross is the Guidance Counselor for students with the last name beginning with M – Z (email: rossjs@gm.sbac.edu)

Make a college list

Your list of colleges should include schools that meet your most important criteria (for example, size, location, cost, academic majors, or special programs). Consider each of these factors according to their importance to you and develop a preliminary ranking of the schools on your list.

Make sure you are meeting any special NCAA requirements

If you want to play Division I or II sports in college, start the certification process and check with your NHS Guidance Counselor to make sure you are taking a core curriculum that meets NCAA requirements.

WINTER

Begin narrowing down your college choices

Make sure you have all the information you need about the colleges you are interested in (entrance requirements, tuition, room and board costs, course offerings, student activities, financial aid, etc.). Then, begin comparing the schools by the factors that are most important to you and rank your choices.

Take standardized tests

Performance on the SAT or ACT is one of the most important criteria for college admission. Register for and take the ACT or SAT. Be sure you have requested that your test scores be sent to the colleges of your choice. ACPS provides the ACT to all 11th graders in the spring of their junior year.

Prepare a challenging schedule for senior year

Determine which classes you will take next year and to make sure you are on track for graduation. Colleges do consider your senior year courses and grades, so stick with a schedule that challenges you.

SPRING

Apply for a summer job or internship

Summer employment and internships, in fields you are interested in, will look appealing on a college application or resume. The money you earn can also be used to help pay application and testing fees in the fall.

Set up appointments at your top college choices

You will need to plan ahead when visiting colleges. Call the admissions office to set up a personal interview, tour, and a meeting with a professor or coach if you are interested. You can also begin your application.

SUMMER

Visit colleges

Visit the campuses of your top five college choices. Take a tour and speak with the admissions and financial aid staff. You may also be able to talk to students if some classes are in session.

Start working on your application essays

Compose rough drafts of the essays you will need for your college applications. Have a teacher read and discuss them with you so you can see what to work on. Make any revisions to your application essays and prepare final drafts. Do not forget to proofread your final essays a few times.

Visit the NHS Student Information Center for more information:

