

College-Bound, Junior Timeline

Tips provided by the EHS Guidance Office (9/17)

September - February of your Junior Year

- Junior year grades are **very important** in the college admission process. Stay on top of your grades this year. Your grades could determine which colleges you are accepted to and the amount of scholarship money you might receive.
- **Register to take the PSAT.** This will help you prepare for your college entrance exams. Also, as a Junior this test makes you eligible for National Merit Honors. **Test is October 11 @ EHS. Cost is \$16. Sign-up in the Counseling office. Checks made out to EHS.**
- Begin to do in-depth research on how to finance college as a family.
- If you are an athlete and plan to play sports in college at a division 1 or 2 school, complete the NCAA Clearinghouse form (www.eligibilitycenter.org). Be sure to let the guidance office know so a transcript can be forwarded to NCAA. If you plan to play sports at an NAIA school check out their eligibility requirements on their website: playnaia.org
- **Make a college testing schedule for the rest of this year and pay close attention to testing deadlines!**
- **March 1 EHS Juniors will be taking the ACT here.** This testing day cost is covered. You are encouraged to take the ACT more than once. ACT flyer dates and study guides are in the Counseling office.
- Begin to make a preliminary list of colleges you would like to investigate further. Remember you are allowed 2 college visit days that do not count as absences.
- Obtain a Social Security number if you do not already have one.
- Be sure to challenge yourself academically when scheduling for your senior year. Colleges are increasing the amount of weight they give to your senior course schedule in the college admission process.
- If you are interested in graduating with a Honors Diploma, check the requirements in the Curriculum Guide.
- Further investigate your career choices and begin researching the colleges offering your majors.
- Apply to be an EHS representative to the prestigious Buckeye Boys/Girl State held in June. Students from all over Ohio will participate in this week-long, mock-state government experience. Listen for the announcements this winter (info will be available in the guidance office).
- If you are interested in majoring in business, apply to attend Ohio Business Week where you will receive real world experience in the business industry (info will be available in the guidance office this winter).
- Bring a parent to the **College Planning Meeting** in the Evergreen High School band room **day & time TBD**. So make sure you are connected via social media, the remind app, etc.
- **Sign-up for the personalized college texting tool** thru UP NEXT that will help you with specific college admissions, general information, etc. ***Text your First & Last name to (240) 623-8319.***

March

- Go to www.actstudent.org and register now for the spring ACTs. Check to see if you need to take the writing portion of the test (most colleges require that you take the writing portion at least once). You will have to upload a standard photo when you register and also provide a photo ID when you arrive to take the test. The ACT is accepted by all colleges in Ohio. If you plan to go out of state, check the college's website and see which standardized test they require you to take – either ACT or SAT. Some colleges require that the ACT or SAT score be sent directly to the college from the educational testing company. If the college you are applying to has that requirement, make sure you have ACT and/or SAT send your scores directly to that college. You will do this when you register for the test. You may take the ACT or SAT tests as many times as you would like, there is no limit.
- Write, telephone or use the internet to request information from colleges on your list.
- Visit Colleges! A college can appear to be the perfect match for you, but until you visit you will not know for sure.
- Continue to evaluate your college list. Add/drop schools as they gain or lose your interest.
- Look into summer academic or enrichment programs (information will be available in the guidance office this spring). Colleges love to see students using their knowledge and developing skills and interests.

May

Visit colleges and work on your college list.

June

- Take the ACT again. if you need to raise your score for college admissions &/or scholarships.

July/August

- Visit colleges and continue to refine your list.
- Begin preparing for the application process. Draft application essays, collect writing samples, and assemble portfolios or audition tapes, if applicable. See specific colleges for information.
- As you apply for colleges [sign-up for Common App](#).
- If you are planning to play sports in college, contact coaches at the schools which interest you.
- Begin to look into scholarships at colleges and others that are out there. Some of the best sites out there (and they are free) are www.fastweb.com and www.meritaid.com. Complete scholarship applications as you find them. Watch out for deadlines!

September/October of your Senior Year

- Make sure you have all applications required for college admission and financial aid. Write, phone or use the Internet to request information.
- Register for the ACT October test date.
- If your college applications require recommendation letters, ask your teachers to write one on your behalf. Please allow at least 2 weeks to complete your recommendation letter. Provide recommendation forms and any special instructions.
- Work on application and scholarship essays and have an English teacher review them with you.
- Begin applying to colleges. Keep copies of everything you do online or mail.
- **FAFSA opens up October 1st.** You and your parent will need to gain access to this during your SENIOR year. You are encouraged to do this early your Senior year. The earlier the better.
- A senior class meeting will be held with Mrs. Roper during enrichment to discuss the college planning process and deadlines.
- **Plan on having your applications done by Halloween.**
- Attend the fall College Planning Night hosted by the guidance office.
- Be sure to read your new updated Senior Timeline published next fall. Lots of information will be coming your way – stay tuned!