

Junior Year

Fall

- **Talk with your school counselor about the year ahead.** Confirm that your courses will put you on the right track for college admission. Be sure to ask about test dates for the PSAT, ACT, and SAT. You will need to register up to six weeks ahead of time.
- **Start to develop a resume.** This document should be a record of your accomplishments, activities and work experiences. This will be important for your college and scholarship applications.
- **If you haven't participated in many activities, now is the time to sign up.** Consider clubs at schools, team sports, leadership roles, or involvement in your religious or civic community group.
- **Attend the National Association of College Admission Counselors (NACAC) College Fair.** Colleges and universities from across North America will have counselors in attendance to answer questions about their schools. Students can sign up in the guidance office to attend this field trip. Western Boone takes up to 50 students each year to Indianapolis where this event is typically held.
- **Take the PSAT.** Taking the test as a junior will allow you to be considered for the National Merit Scholarship. When you receive the results, discuss them with your family and your school counselor to understand strengths and weaknesses.
- **Begin to prepare for the ACT or SAT.** There are many free resources on the Internet. If you have difficulty finding the best websites, ask your school counselor. Ideally, you should have all admission testing completed during the spring of your junior year, but many students also plan to take a test in the fall of their senior year. If you qualify for free/reduced lunch or are a 21st Century Scholar, ask your school counselor for a fee waiver.

January/February

- **Meet with your school counselor to develop your senior year schedule.** Make sure that you will be enrolled in the most challenging courses for which you are qualified.
- **Register for a spring offering of the SAT and/or ACT.** Ask your school counselor if you need to take an SAT Subject Test for the colleges you are considering.
- **Ask your counselor about summer opportunities on college campuses.** This can be a great way to find out what college life is all about and make you a more attractive candidate for admission.

March/April

- **Begin taking a more serious look at colleges and universities.** Make a file for each college and gather information about academics, financial aid, and campus life. Go to college fairs and open houses and learn as much as you can about the colleges online.
- **Begin planning college visits.** Spring break is a good time to visit. Juniors are allowed one college visit day. Try to visit colleges near you and include a large, medium size, and small campus.

- **Develop a preliminary list of colleges that interest you.**
- **Think about lining up a summer job, internship, or job shadowing experience.**

May

- **Take a look at some college applications and consider all of the different pieces of information you will need to compile.**
- **Make a list of teachers, counselors, employers, or other adults you might ask to write letters of recommendation.**
- **If you are a 21st Century Scholar**, make sure you have completed all steps of your Scholar Success Program

Summer

- **Continue to investigate colleges.** Begin thinking about applications. Many colleges have their applications available in August. It is possible to complete these before you return to school for your senior year.
- **Ask your counselor about fee waivers.** If you are a student that participates in the free/reduced lunch program or is a 21st Century Scholar, you are eligible for up to 4 college application fee waivers.