

PREPARING FOR POST GRADUATION: JUNIOR YEAR TIMELINE (Timeline likely to change due to COVID-19 Crisis)

Prepare for and take standardized tests.

- Check the schedules for the PSAT in the fall, and the SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Test, ACT, and AP tests in the spring.
- Discuss with your school counselor why you should take these tests and how they could benefit you (inquire about fee waivers for these tests).
- Determine which tests you will take. (You can always change your mind.)
- Sign up and prepare for the tests you've decided to take.

Maintain good grades and other academic activities.

- Continue to take and seek out challenging courses.
- Join an academic club.
- Start or update an academic and extracurricular resume (brag sheet-<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DonYzxPOwBVDUZ9XbRuchuwihyc0ggX8RDAHclBdbaxA/edit>).
- Assume leadership roles in your activities and sports.

Continue your college search and visits.

- Gather information from colleges. Request brochures and catalogs and attend college fairs.
- Visit colleges and talk with college students.
- Check into applying to colleges online and attend A+ College Visits
- Talk with your parents and high school counselor about colleges that interest you.
- During the summer between your junior and senior year, write practice applications and essays and decide where and if to apply early decision, early action or regular decision.

AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start your year off right: Talk with your school counselor about your options and your plans. Be sure to ask about test dates for the PSAT, ACT, and SAT. You'll need to register up to six weeks ahead of time.• Sign up for courses with your eyes on the prize: college and money to pay for it! A well balanced course load may pay off with scholarships and may get you a better chance to get admitted to the school of your choice.• Sign up for activities to boost your college applications.
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Find out about schools you are interested in attending. Treat your school selection process like a research paper: Make a file and gather information about schools, financial aid, and campus life to put in it. Go to college fairs and open houses and learn as much as you can from the Internet about schools. Begin planning college visits. Fall, winter, and spring break are good times because you can observe a campus when classes are going on.• Establish relationships with teachers and identifying potential writers for letters of recommendation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have conversations with those individuals at the end of the semester to ask if they would be able/willing to write you a “good letter of recommendation” on your behalf and give them at least 2 week notice. • Take the PSAT. You'll get the results by Christmas. • Sign up for ACT or SAT prep courses. • Begin studying for the free, state-wide ACT if you haven't already. • Begin the application process for service academies (West Point, Annapolis, etc.) • Decide if you should take AP exams in May. Investigate the College-Level Examination Program or CLEP, which grants college credit for achievement in exams covering many different college-level subjects.
JANUARY - MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with your school counselor again to develop your senior schedule. • Organize your Individual Graduation Plan. • Think about lining up a summer job, internship, or co-op. • Plan campus visits for spring break. • Get ready for AP exams next month. • Write a resume.
JUNE - AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take visits to different colleges/program and connect with someone in their admissions office • Work to save money for college/travel • Search for scholarships and other funding opportunities • Strengthen brag sheet with more volunteering, employment, internship, or activities • Get mentally prepared for senior year and decide what you want to accomplish before High School is done

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE: SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE

AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign up for the ACT if you didn't take it as a junior, or if you aren't satisfied with your score. • Review ACT test results and retest if necessary.
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). • Visit with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements. • Consider taking courses at a local university or community college. • Keep working hard all year; second semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility. • Ask for personal references from teachers, school counselors, or employers early in the year or at least two weeks before application deadline. • Visit with admissions counselors who come to your high school. • Attend a college fair. • Write your college essay(s).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for admission at the colleges you've chosen. • Create an account at Parchment.com, which is the website VAHS uses to send transcripts to colleges. • Find out if you qualify for scholarships at each college where you have applied. • Start the financial aid application process. • Visit the Student Services section of the VAHS website for information on Scholarship Opportunities • Search for scholarships
<p>JANUARY - MAY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January, log in to your Parchment account to send first semester transcripts to schools where you applied (if applicable). In May, you may need to request to have a final transcript sent to the college you choose to attend. • Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll. • Decide which college to attend, and notify the school of your decision. • Keep track of and observe deadlines for sending in all required fees and paperwork. • Notify schools you will not attend of your decision. • Continue to look for scholarship opportunities by researching online and visiting the Student Services section of the VAHS website. • Keep track of important financial aid and scholarship deadlines. • Watch the mail for your Student Aid Report (SAR). It should arrive approx. four weeks after the FAFSA is filed. • Compare financial aid packages from different schools. • Sign and send in a promissory note if you are borrowing money. • Notify your college about any outside scholarships you received.
<p>JUNE - AUGUST</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure you have requested your final transcript to be sent to the college you are attending. • Getting a summer job can help pay some of your college expenses. • Make a list of what you will need to take with you for your residence hall room. • If you haven't met your roommate, call or e-mail to get acquainted in advance. • Make sure housing documentation is quickly accessible when you move into the residence hall. • Learn how to get around at your new school. Review a campus map. • Wait until after your first class meeting to buy your books and supplies.