

TIMELINE: Juniors Preparing for 4-year College

December – March of Junior Year:

1. Meet with Mrs. Oldham to discuss your plans, ask questions, etc.
2. Attend the Virtual Junior College Information Night in January for parents and students
3. Register for and prepare for the SAT and/or the ACT (**Note: Many colleges have moved to test optional for the graduating class of 2021 because of COVID. At this time, we do not know what policies will be in place for the graduating class of 2022, so I am encouraging students to prepare for college as we did before COVID*)
4. Research colleges and begin narrowing down a list of potential colleges.
5. Research potential careers and majors

March – June of Junior Year:

1. Meet with Mrs. Oldham to discuss your plans if you have not done so already or if you just have more questions.
2. Take the SAT and/or ACT – At least once but I recommend taking it more than once.
3. Visit college campuses (In person or virtually) See college websites for information and to register.
4. Logon to potential college websites. Look at the Admissions Tab to find out what criteria the college is looking for. Look under the Academic Tab to get specific information about the majors offered.
5. Begin asking teachers and Mrs. Oldham for a letter of recommendation if you will need one.
6. Begin researching scholarships and financial aid

June – August before Senior Year:

1. Continue college visits (In person or virtually)
2. Make a list of application deadlines and required application materials for your colleges – you can find this on the college website
3. Begin college applications – Most open in August
4. Ask for letters of recommendation
5. Sign up to take the ACT/SAT again if needed or desired.

August - November of Senior Year:

1. Meet with Mrs. Oldham to go over college list and deadlines
2. Last call to ask for letters of recommendation
3. Take the SAT/ACT again if needed or desired
4. Continue working on and finalizing college applications
5. Fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – This will open in October of your senior year. Every student/parent should fill this out regardless of financial situation.

November – January of Senior Year

1. Finalize college applications – Make it a goal to be completed by Thanksgiving!
2. Focus your energy on Scholarship searches and applications

January - February of Senior Year

1. Request a Mid-Year Report from Mrs. Oldham if your college has requested one.
2. Continue scholarship search and applications
3. Complete the FAFSA if you have not already done so

March – June of Senior Year

1. Continue scholarship search and applications
2. Make a decision about which college you will attend, send in deposit, and take placement exams if needed.
3. Request a final transcript to be sent to the college you will be attending

Important Information:

Testing: SAT and/or the ACT

**Note: Many colleges have moved to test optional for the graduating class of 2021 because of COVID. At this time, we do not know what policies will be in place for the graduating class of 2022, so I am encouraging students to prepare for college as we did before COVID*

- **Which one should I take?**
 - ❖ Both ACT and SAT scores are used for college admissions decisions and awarding merit-based scholarships. Most colleges do not prefer one test over the other. It is a personal decision. Different students tend to do better on one test over the other. Many students decide to take both. Information about each test can be found online.
- **How many times should I take it?**
 - ❖ Take the SAT and/or the ACT at least one time. **I suggest taking it multiple times** as most colleges will super score – meaning they will take the highest score from each subject no matter how many times the test is taken.
- **When should I take it?**
 - ❖ This school year!!! The next ACT date is in February and the next SAT is in March. You can get registered now.
- **How do I register?**
 - ❖ Register for the SAT: www.collegeboard.org
 - ❖ Register for the ACT: www.actstudent.org
- **Prepare for the SAT/ACT**
 - ❖ **Free test prep**
 - SAT – The Khan Academy. I highly recommended using this:
 - Sign up on www.collegeboard.org for the Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy
 - The practice is personalized, interactive and students can take full length practice tests
 - ACT – Practice material can be found on their website
 - ❖ There are many options that can be found online for ACT/SAT test prep that have a fee
 - ❖ Sometimes test prep opportunities are offered locally. This information is forwarded to students as we get it.
 - ❖ See the NHS Guidance Website for additional resources. www.northernguidance.weebly.com

College Search:

- **Start with you:**
 - ❖ Talk to your family to make sure that you are all in agreement, especially when it comes to finances and school location.
 - ❖ Think about what type of school you want to attend? Large, small, private, public, close to home, out of state, etc.
 - ❖ Know your GPA and test scores so that you can find schools that match your credentials – You want to apply to schools that are in your reach.
 - ❖ Make sure the colleges you are searching offer the major that you are interested in pursuing
- **Explore Colleges: Here are some great places to start**
 - ❖ Big Future - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
 - ❖ Cappex - <https://www.cappex.com/>
 - ❖ College Confidential - <https://talk.collegeconfidential.com/>
 - ❖ College Data - [College Search Website - Student Preparation | CollegeData](#)
 - ❖ College Navigator - <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
 - ❖ Niche - <https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/best-colleges/>

Financial Aid/Scholarships/Cost

- **I HIGHLY recommend utilizing this website: [Home | Federal Student Aid](#)**
 - **It has a wealth of very useful information for people of all economic circumstances and will answer many of your questions:**
 - You will find information on grants, loans, scholarships, work study, aid for military, eligibility requirements, how aid is calculated, and information about the FAFSA.
- Log onto www.collegeboard.com to use the financial aid calculators to estimate your aid eligibility and college costs. Many colleges also offer these tools on their websites.

- Each college website has a section for cost and financial aid. Visit the financial aid page on specific college websites that you are interested in attending and look at costs, scholarships, and financial aid process (including deadlines and required applications).
- Become familiar with the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) process.

Explore Potential Careers:

- **Career Cruising:** [Calvert County Public Schools Login \(careercruising.com\)](https://www.careercruising.com)
 - *Your Username is the prefix 'CAL-' followed by your student ID (e.g. cal-1234567)*
 - *Your Password is your birth date (mmdyyyy) (e.g. August 25th, 2002 --> 08252002)*
- **Career One Stop:** <https://www.careeronestop.org>
- **Collegeboard Career Finder:** [Career Finder | Roadtrip Nation](https://www.collegeboard.com/career-finder)
- <https://www.truity.com/test/holland-code-career-test>
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