



College Planning Checklist for Juniors

FALL 2024

1. **Visit the Class of 2026 Schoology page weekly.** (on Schoology, click "Courses" then look for the class page; on the Class of 2026 page, click "Updates" on the left side menu). Important information will be posted here, so stay informed.
2. Learn about college options. Attend college fairs in person or virtually. Come to the MHS College Fair on September 23rd with questions for the college representatives.
3. Take rigorous academic courses in which you can be successful and work hard to make high grades. Doing so will prepare you for college or careers.
4. Take the PSAT in **October 2024** (See Mr. Gage for registration information). It is excellent practice and can help guide your preparation for the SAT. The PSAT junior year is the National Merit Qualifying Test!
5. Explore career options using Xello. You can access Xello via your SSO – look for the Xello tile. More information about Xello and other career exploration resources are on the College and Career Center page of the MHS website.
6. **Register to take the SAT and ACT** in December/January/February and throughout the spring. Fee waivers are available for qualifying students. We recommend students take both tests once to see how you score on each. Use those results to determine which test to take again to improve your scores. Most students take these tests 2-3 times, starting second semester of junior year.
7. Check your Florida Bright Futures status -are you on track to earn the scholarship? Go to www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf (click on "Bright Futures Scholarship" on the right) to see requirements.

WINTER/SPRING

1. **Take the SAT and/or ACT.** Prepare for the tests. Check out free, on-line practice from college Board and ACT.
2. Attend the **MHS College Night for Juniors January 16, 2025 – 6:30pm in the MHS Davis Theater** to learn more about what you can do *now* to prepare for college.
3. Continue to **research prospective colleges**. Learn about their admissions requirements and application deadlines.
4. Consider AP, honors and/or dual enrollment classes when registering for your senior year classes. It's important to keep up the rigor of your curriculum in your senior year while maintaining a balance so you don't overload! Talk to your school counselor about options.
5. Begin creating your college resume – including all your high school achievements (clubs, sports, honors, etc.)
6. **Visit college campuses – in person or virtually.** Take an official campus tour to learn more about the school and what they offer. Many colleges host in person and/or virtual open houses/admission information sessions.

SUMMER

1. **Visit colleges.** Sign up on their websites for an official visit.
2. **Prepare your resume** - all activities, clubs, sports, work, honors, volunteer service, etc. that you've done in high school. This information will be needed as part of the college applications.
3. Begin writing your **college essay**. Check the websites of the colleges you are interested in to see what their essay questions are. The essay allows you to tell the college about yourself. A great essay will present a personal and compelling view of you to the admissions staff.