



# Steps to Get Ready for College

## Juniors

### September

- Continue to keep your options open by taking the most challenging and interesting classes that you can.
- Continue to choose your Career Concentration electives wisely.
- Continue to keep track of your awards and involvement.
- Read and act on important college & testing information posted on the SCS College/Career Center website.
- Start your Activities Resume. You will need it for requesting letters of recommendation and applying for scholarships and colleges.
- Stay involved in meaningful extra-curricular activities, and take on a formal or informal leadership role.

### October

- Sign up for and take the PSAT. It will help you anticipate how you will perform on the SAT, gets you familiar with the SAT test format, and qualifies you for the National Merit Scholarship competition.
- Attend applicable college fairs and information nights posted on the SCS College/Career Center website.
- Talk to college reps that visit SCS throughout the Fall.
- Start to brainstorm what you want in a college (big or small, private or public, etc.).
- Use the College Board's College Search tool (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>) to identify 5-8 colleges that meet your needs/wants, and let the admissions office know you are considering the school.
- Start to look and apply for scholarship opportunities open to juniors. Any sent to SCS will be posted on the SCS College/Career Center website.

### November

- Read any information that you receive in the mail from your top colleges.
- Continue to attend college fairs and information nights.
- Research possible college majors and make sure your top colleges offer the program(s) you want or are considering. Compare your program(s) of interest at your top colleges to see which college(s) may be a better match for you and your goals.

### December

- If able, visit your top colleges of interest during Christmas or Spring Breaks, or over the summer. If this isn't possible, see if you can do a virtual campus tour, or consider visiting a local college to give you a general taste of college life. If you travel out of town, consider visiting college campuses where you are staying.

### January

- Use your PSAT results to start studying for the SAT. Free test preparation is available at KCLS libraries (Study Zone) and through My College Quickstart (information on your PSAT results). Research if you also want to take the ACT.
- Start checking your top college's websites for information about open houses, tours and events targeted to interested juniors and seniors. Note: Some colleges reimburse prospective students for a portion of their travel expenses.

## February

- Start a discussion with your parents about paying for college and research options together using resources on the SCS College/Career Center website.
- Get familiar with the deadlines and process to register to take the SAT (<http://sat.collegeboard.org/register>) and/or ACT (<http://www.actstudent.org/regist/>). Plan to take one or both exams in the spring (March – June test dates). If you are taking Algebra 2, plan to take tests in June of Junior year or August of senior year.

## March

- Continue to work on identifying then researching 5-8 colleges of interest, with the goal of narrowing down the colleges you will apply to in the Fall of your senior year. Make sure you have at least two safety schools on your list (see <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/how-to-finalize-your-college-list-admissions-college-application>).
- Start thinking about adults (teachers preferred, but if your college asks a Pastor, coach or mentor) that you might ask to write a letter of recommendation for you for college and scholarship applications. Start talking to them about your college goals so that they are personally familiar with your plans and aspirations.
- Plan your senior year courses. Select classes that will help you meet the entrance requirements for your top colleges and/or further explore your career interests.

## April

- Start researching and applying for summer internships, jobs or volunteer opportunities related to your career interests.

## June

- If able, visit college campuses over the summer. Remember to get a college visit packet from your School Counselor that contains tips and resources to make the most of your visit.
- If needed, over the summer, study to take the SAT and/or ACT a second time. Register to re-take the test(s) in August or October of your senior year.

## July - August

- If able, visit college campuses.
- Check the admissions requirements for your schools of interest, and make sure that your senior year courses prepare you to meet them. If not, email the [Registrar@SeattleChristian.org](mailto:Registrar@SeattleChristian.org) immediately about updating your schedule.
- Update your Activities Resume (used for college and scholarship applications).

**Questions? Need help? Talk to your School Counselor**

Adapted from <http://studentaid.ed.gov> and [www.independence.wa.gov](http://www.independence.wa.gov)