

HTHNC College Planning Checklist

Junior Year

August

- Continue investigating sources for financial aid. Take note of scholarship deadlines and plan accordingly**
- Continue developing resume in Family Connection**
 - Focus on accomplishments, activities, and work experiences
 - If students don't participate in many activities outside of class, now is the time to sign up. Consider clubs at school, outside of school, and after school jobs
- Set up a filing place for all college materials**
- Transcript/Academic check (update "my checklist" in Family Connection)**

September/October

- Attend college nights/fairs in San Diego County**
- Register for the PSAT**
 - Even if a student took it during sophomore year, taking the test this year will count towards National Merit Scholar consideration and will give students a better predictor for the SAT they take later this year or next
- Sign up for ACT or SAT prep courses or use free test preparation resources on the Internet**
- Update Family Connection**
 - My game plan, my profile, my resume

November

- Plan holiday college visit trips**

December

- PSAT test results should be coming in. Review the results with your students to assess strengths and weaknesses**

January/February

- Make arrangements for test prep courses**
- College search should have begun utilizing students' individual search criteria (*10 – 15 schools minimum*)**
- Register for spring SAT or ACT tests**
 - Fee waivers for those who qualify are available through college advising
- Think about registering for SAT Subject Tests this spring**
 - Students have until April to register for the test in June
- Keep investigating scholarships**
- College Day reflection journal entry**
- Transcript/Academic check – update “my checklist”**
 - Plan for any missing credits to be complete this summer
- Attend Junior College Night**
- Apply for at least one scholarship**

March/April

- College search should be more serious by now. Students should be gathering information about academics, financial aid, and campus life to put into their file**
- Attend local spring college fairs (NACAC Nat'l College Fair downtown)**
- Begin planning college visits**
 - Spring break is a good time because students can observe campuses when classes are in session
- Think about a summer job, internship, service trip, community college classes, etc...**
 - Look at UC approved list of activities
- Develop a preliminary list of colleges**
 - Request information from the colleges
- Start to look at college applications to consider the different pieces of information students will need to compile**
- Check for SAT/ACT registrations for May and June testing**
- Complete 1 of 6 essay topics from Common App and UC**
 - Upload essay to Family Connection

May

- Recommendation list**
 - Have students make a list of teachers, counselors, employers, and other adults who they can ask to write letters of recommendation for college applications
 - Note this list in “my journal”

- Verify students took either SAT Reasoning or ACT w/ Writing at least once**