

Junior Year To-Do's

- If you have not set up a Parchment, College Board, and/or ACT account, do that immediately. **DO NOT USE YOUR SMA EMAIL ADDRESS; USE/CREATE A PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS.**
- Continue to keep your grades up. Colleges/universities will look at your six-semester (transcript after junior year), seven-semester (transcript after the fall semester of senior year) **AND** your final eight-semester transcript after graduation. You will send your final transcript to the college you have chosen to attend (not all the ones to which you applied).
- Check your transcript that everything on it is correct and that you are on the path to graduate with all your required courses. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are taking the right classes. If you have questions or concerns, ask your counselor.
- Take challenging courses--AP, dual credit, honors. Choose an area or areas that you are strong in and take more challenging classes in those areas. Taking all honors, AP, or dual credit classes can cause unnecessary stress and will tend to weaken all of your classes' grades.
- Most colleges look at the applicant's high school career as a whole--grades, challenging courses, extracurricular activities, community service, and test scores (ACT/SAT).
- Continue to be active in school with community service, extracurricular activities, and leadership roles. Choose one or two organizations to focus your efforts. A resume with a large list of activities or clubs that are not important will not help your resume look good.
- Create a resume of your high school activities, work, grades, clubs, community service, etc. Try to keep it at one page (you will work on this in your junior English class).
- Be very careful about what you post on your social media pages plus the email address and graphic you choose to represent you. You want to present your best self. Colleges/universities look at these to see what kind of pictures you post, what comments you make, what things you share, how you present yourself, etc.
- Think about what you want to do after high school graduation--gap year, college, military, vocational school, two-year college, four-year college?
- If you are going to college, think about what you want to major in while at college. Think about where you would want to live--weather and climate, culture, people, big city, small city/town, cost, variety of programs offered--these all factor in to where you want to go to college.
- Visit websites for colleges, military, vocational school, apprenticeships, shadowing opportunities, etc. in whatever field you are interested.
- Attend college and career fairs in the area.
- Take advantage of SMA's policy on college visits (see Student Handbook section 200.06).
- Get a summer job or volunteer at a place that has your career field interest.

- Start a list of colleges/careers that you are interested in pursuing.
- Sign up to take the ACT and/or SAT in late fall or in the spring.
- Think about who you want to write your letters of recommendation and give those people advanced notice; most likely, it will be one of your freshman, sophomore, or junior year teachers.
- Be organized--colleges will start sending you, if they haven't already, a lot of mailings. Keep the ones that interest you, research them, and throw the others in a recycle bin.
- Your teachers, counselor, parents/guardians, grandparents, pastors, etc. are here to help you and to answer any questions you may have concerning life after high school.
- There are many websites that can help with questions you may have about college, but I have found these to be very helpful websites:
 - collegesimply.com/colleges/texas This website lists all colleges and universities in Texas for 2018.
 - free-4u.com This website gives information on national colleges, universities, and scholarships.
 - princetonreview.com This website is good for tips in writing college application essays, help with SAT, and gives college admission tips.
 - Big Future College Board <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>
 - Niche Advanced College Search <https://.niche.com>
 - US News Education <https://www.usnews.com/education>
 - Trade Schools <http://www.trade-schools.net/locations/texas-schools-directory.asp>

If you need any help during the year, come by; we will be delighted to help you in any way that we can.

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