

# JUNIOR YEAR AT BHS

## September

**Focus on taking a balanced course load and achieving the best possible grades in these classes.**

### Register for the PSAT Exam

Students will be notified of the test date and registration process in Homeroom. Online registration is available using links communicated from BHS Guidance.

### Branch out!

Join a club, try out for a sports team, volunteer, get a job, or take on a new hobby. Colleges want to admit students who not only cultivate existing interests, but also explore new interests and gain experiences. These experiences can help students to think about possible career interests and goals that may be part of a college major, a 2-year certification program, or a career in the trades.

## October

### PSAT Exam

The PSAT is also the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST). ([nationalmerit.org](http://nationalmerit.org))

### Careers in trade

Thinking that a trade opportunity after graduation may be your goal? See the BHS career counselor or your guidance counselor for more information.

### Kaplan online training

Prepare for the PSAT by joining online live classes covering a variety of test subjects. ([kaptest.com](http://kaptest.com))

### Attend BHS Financial Aid Night (for students and parents/caretakers)

Financial Aid applications are submitted starting Oct 1 of senior year. Junior year is therefore a good time to learn about financing options. ([meff.org](http://meff.org) and [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) for additional info, videos and webinars)

## November

### Have fun during Thanksgiving Break!

Try to speak with friends home from college. Talk to family/friends who have careers in areas you may be interested, including technical and trade opportunities.

## December

### PSAT results arrive.

### Start studying for the SATs.

Take some practice exams, sign up for a prep class, download some helpful apps.

- [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org)
- [khanacademy.org](http://khanacademy.org)
- [kaptest.com](http://kaptest.com)

### Meet with your guidance counselor.

Plan whether you'll take the SAT or ACT test. Note that many schools are now test-optional. ([fairtest.org](http://fairtest.org)) You can also stop by the College-Career Center 279 to ask the college counselor questions during drop-in hours posted outside the door.

### SAT or ACT?

There are differences between the two tests which you can research. Meet with your **guidance counselor** or the **BHS college counselor** to discuss your strengths and advantages for each test.

## January

### Check out Naviance

Students should start exploring colleges using Naviance ([naviance.com](http://naviance.com)). If a student does not have login information for his/her account, he/she should contact guidance counselor.

## February

### Junior Night

Introduction to post-secondary planning for parents and students.

### College visits

Students should take time during February vacation to visit colleges they have been researching for the last few months. (Visits can be set up by visiting the school's website and arranging an official tour.)

### Junior guidance seminars begin (2 sessions: end of Feb+early Mar)

Students will meet with their counselors in a group setting to learn about the college application process. The seminars include information regarding Naviance, post-secondary planning, standardized testing, resume writing, college forms, and teacher recommendations. Gap Year programs and other educational opportunities will also be covered.

### ACT Exam

Students must self-register one month in advance. For more information, visit the ACT website. ([act.org](http://act.org))

### Research for this summer

Look into summer jobs, internships, camps or any other program that could grow your interests. Contact the BHS career counselor to discuss the options. (Also: [TeenLife.com](http://TeenLife.com))

## March

### SAT Exam

Students must self-register one month in advance. For more information, visit the College Board website. ([CollegeBoard.org](http://CollegeBoard.org))

### Spring college fairs

BHS hosts a college fair with over 100 colleges in attendance. Specific information will be available closer to the event.

### SAT Subject Tests

Only a small number of schools recommend or require 2 or 3 SAT subject tests. Visit each college website for requirements. Go to: [compassprep.com/subject-test-requirements-and-recommendations/](http://compassprep.com/subject-test-requirements-and-recommendations/) for updated information on which colleges require (only 8 in 2017) or recommend (only 14 in 2017) Subject Tests.

## April

### Individual post high school planning meetings

Students meet with their guidance counselors or BHS college counselor to continue the post-secondary planning process.

### Virtual college visits

Some colleges provide video chats for online visits. CollegeWeekLive provides online events for over 500 colleges. ([collegeweeklive.com](http://collegeweeklive.com))

### ACT Exam

Students must self-register one month in advance. For more information, visit the ACT website. ([act.org](http://act.org))

### BHS Job/Career Fair

## May

### SAT OR SAT II Subject Exams

Students must self-register one month in advance. For more information, visit the College Board website. ([CollegeBoard.org](http://CollegeBoard.org))

### AP Students AP Exams

Advanced Placement Exams are offered in the beginning of May. Visit the AP College Board website ([apstudent.collegeboard.org](http://apstudent.collegeboard.org)) and consult your teacher for more information.

### Summertime!

#### Make plans!

While summer is a time to relax from school, it's also a great time to stay busy with activities such as jobs, summer camp, internships, volunteering, etc. Colleges prefer that students keep exploring new interests, cultivating existing interests, and gaining new experiences.

#### Work on your college list

This is a great time to start editing your college list. If you fall in love with a particular college, consider an early decision (ED) or early action application (EA).

#### Visits colleges

Continue to visit colleges, keeping a list of pros and cons for each school. College visits should be set up by visiting the school's website and registering for an official tour. Look up information for each of your choice colleges.

#### College Essay

Students should start working on the first draft of their college essay over the summer. The essay questions tend to be similar from year to year. Speak with your English teacher or counselor about choosing prompts.

When it comes out in August, review and start filling out the **Common Application**. This can help reduce the amount needed to be done in Fall. ([www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org))



• **Peer Recommendations**

**Podcasts:**

- Slate's "Getting In"

**Books:**

- Demystifying the College Process
- Fiske Guide to Colleges
- Insider's Guide to the Colleges
- Colleges That Change Lives
- Princeton Review - Complete Book of Colleges
- The Advocate - College Guide for LGBT Students
- The Gap Year Advantage
- The Insider's Guide to Success in the Two Year Colleges

**Websites:**

- [CollegeNavigator.gov](http://CollegeNavigator.gov)
- [bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org)

