

11th Grade Planning Timeline (updated August 2023)

Fall Semester – General Recommendations

Maintain your Grades during your junior year

This school year is your final push before applying to colleges. When you submit your applications next fall, colleges will see your final course grades and GPA from 9th-11th grades. Many colleges make admission decisions before they receive your first semester senior grades....so junior year is very important!

Challenge Yourself Academically

Colleges will consider the difficulty of your courses and the overall rigor of your transcript.

Consider taking the PSAT

The PSAT/NMSQT is a standardized, multiple-choice test that includes three sections: critical reading, mathematics, and writing. The test provides practice for the SAT, and juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT are automatically screened for the National Merit® Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarships.

The PSAT will be offered on October 17, 2023, and the registration deadline is typically within the first two weeks of school. Juniors who meet the GPA criteria can take the test for free, while all other students pay a small fee (\$18 for 2023-2024).

Research Career & College Options

Now is the time to really focus on your career and college research. Here are some resources to help guide your research: [College Board - How to Find Your Best Fit](#), [Major Clarity](#), [CFNC](#), [Common App](#).

Be Involved in school and community activities

- Create an activity list and begin building a resume.
- Here's a [general template](#) that includes some helpful action verbs and other language to help you describe your activities and skills.
- Click here to access several types of [college resume templates](#).

Discuss your interests, research, and plans with your family

You'll be working together a lot over the next couple of years as you leave high school and enter college or pursue another path.

Talk to your school counselor about the following:

- Course rigor - honors & AP classes
- The possibility of taking college-level courses before you graduate from high school in the Career & College Promise (CCP) Program
- Taking the PSAT, SAT, ACT, and AP Exams and how they can benefit you
- Your academic record, review it with your counselor and talk about ways to improve

Make a plan for the ACT & SAT

Junior year is an excellent time to take the SAT and ACT. Many schools have become test-optional, but that may not be a permanent change – be sure to do your research about your potential colleges' testing policies. Students are recommended to take each test once and then focus on one of the tests for additional preparation and a second attempt.

ACT: all high school juniors will take the ACT at school *for free* during the spring semester (February 28, 2024). Students can find prep materials and/or register for other ACT attempts at act.org.

SAT: students can find prep materials, and/or register for the SAT at collegeboard.org.

2023-2024 ACT & SAT Testing Dates

ACT		SAT	
*The registration deadline is about four-to-five weeks prior to the testing date			
September 9, 2023	April 13, 2024	August 26, 2023	March 9, 2024
October 28, 2023	June 8, 2024	October 7, 2023	May 4, 2024
December 9, 2023	July 13, 2024	November 4, 2023	June 1, 2024
February 10, 2024		December 2, 2023	

Early Spring– General Recommendations

Continue to research colleges and plan for College Visits

Visiting colleges can help you in deciding which schools may be a better fit for you. If you have collected enough information about schools, you may want to begin planning visits to some campuses. Workdays, spring break, and summer break are excellent times to plan a college visit.

Course registration for senior year

When choosing your senior classes, register for challenging and interesting courses. Pursue rigor, but don't take on more than you can handle. Remember that colleges will see your entire senior year schedule as part of your college application.

Consider looking for a summer internship or job

Not only can you learn valuable skills about a potential career path, you can earn money to save for college while also developing additional references for future jobs or college. Contact our Career Development Coordinator, Mrs. Guinn (tguinn@wcpss.net), or your [school counselor](#) if you are interested in finding an internship or job.

Late Spring- General Recommendations

Continue to research the requirements of the colleges you're interested in, making note of their application deadlines and scholarship opportunities.

Letters of recommendation for college

Before summer break begins, speak with teachers about writing letters of recommendation for you. Consider which faculty members know you best and what attributes or skills you would like highlighted and shared with colleges. Politely ask those teachers, and send an email request that includes a [brag sheet](#) or any other information that might assist teachers in writing the recommendation. It is also best practice to send a follow-up email at the start of senior year. Be sure to thank your recommenders.

Summer between Junior and Senior Years - Complete the [AFHS Summer Application To Do List](#)