

# 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Planning Timeline

## Fall Semester – General Recommendations

**Maintaining your grades during your junior year is important!**

This school year is your final push before applying to colleges. Colleges will initially only see your grades from 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades when you apply.

**Make sure you are challenging yourself academically.**

Colleges will consider how difficult your courses are.

**Now is the time to really focus your career and college research.**

**Get/stay involved in school and community activities.**

**As you research education and career opportunities, share your discoveries 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:**

- Availability of and enrollment in AP classes
- The possibility of dual-enrollment: taking college-level courses before you graduate from high school (Career and College Promise or CCP)
- Schedules for the PSAT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ACT, and AP Exams
- Why you should take these exams and how they can benefit you
- How to start getting ready for these exams
- Your academic record: review it with your counselor and talk about way to improve
- The admissions requirements for the colleges you're interested in: do your research, and be sure to find out about any additional requirements besides preferred GPA and test scores

## August

Obtain schedules and review the process to register for the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ACT, and AP Exams.

## September

Keep an eye out for any virtual college visits here or college fair/information sessions at other local high schools or venues in the area.

## October

Begin to narrow your lists of potential colleges to include a few colleges with requirements at your current GPA, a few with requirements above your current GPA, and at least one with requirements below your GPA.

## December

Make sure you have the necessary classes for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

## Spring Semester – General Recommendations

**Consider looking for a summer internship or job.**

Not only can you learn valuable skills about a potential career path, you could also earn money to save for college. Contact Mrs. Tomey ([Ltomey@wcpss.net](mailto:Ltomey@wcpss.net)) or Mrs. Guinn ([tguinn@wcpss.net](mailto:tguinn@wcpss.net)), our Career Development Coordinators, to help you find internships or jobs.

## January

Start or continue your campus tours online or in-person (if being offered).

Visiting colleges can help you in deciding which schools may be a better fit for you. Absences for college visits can be excused if the Request for Excused Absences for Education Reasons is submitted 48 hours prior to the visit.

### February

When choosing your senior year classes, register for challenging and interesting courses (don't take on more than you can handle).

The ACT will be administered to all juniors tentatively the last week in February 2021 (this date may be subject to change). Also consider which Spring date you will register to take the SAT. We recommend students take each test once, as some students find they do better or prefer one test over the other.

### March

Take the March SAT exam if you registered to take it this month. No SAT Subject Tests are offered this month.

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

### April

Take the April ACT test if you registered for this month.

### May

Take any AP, SAT, and SAT Subject Tests you registered to complete this month.

Speak with teachers about possibly writing letters of recommendation for you.

Think about who has good knowledge of you and what things you would like highlighted and politely ask those teachers.

### June

Continue to visit colleges virtually or in-person (if permitted). Contact the financial aid and admission offices at the colleges in which you are most interested to learn more specific information you may need.

If you go on interviews or visits, sending a thank you note or email can be a nice gesture.

Take the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, or the ACT if you're registered.

### Summer between Junior and Senior Years

Review how you will apply to your schools (Common App, Coalition App, directly through the schools' portals) and familiarize yourself with those platforms. (Applications reset on the Common and Coalition Apps around Aug. 1).

Work on drafts of your application essays.

Decide if you will apply for any Early Decision or Early Action deadlines.

This requires you to submit your applications early, typically between October and mid-November, of your senior year. Early Decision is binding, Early Action is not.

### Test Dates

ACT	SAT
<a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a>	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a>
Check website for most up-to-date testing schedule.	Check website for most up-to-date testing schedule.