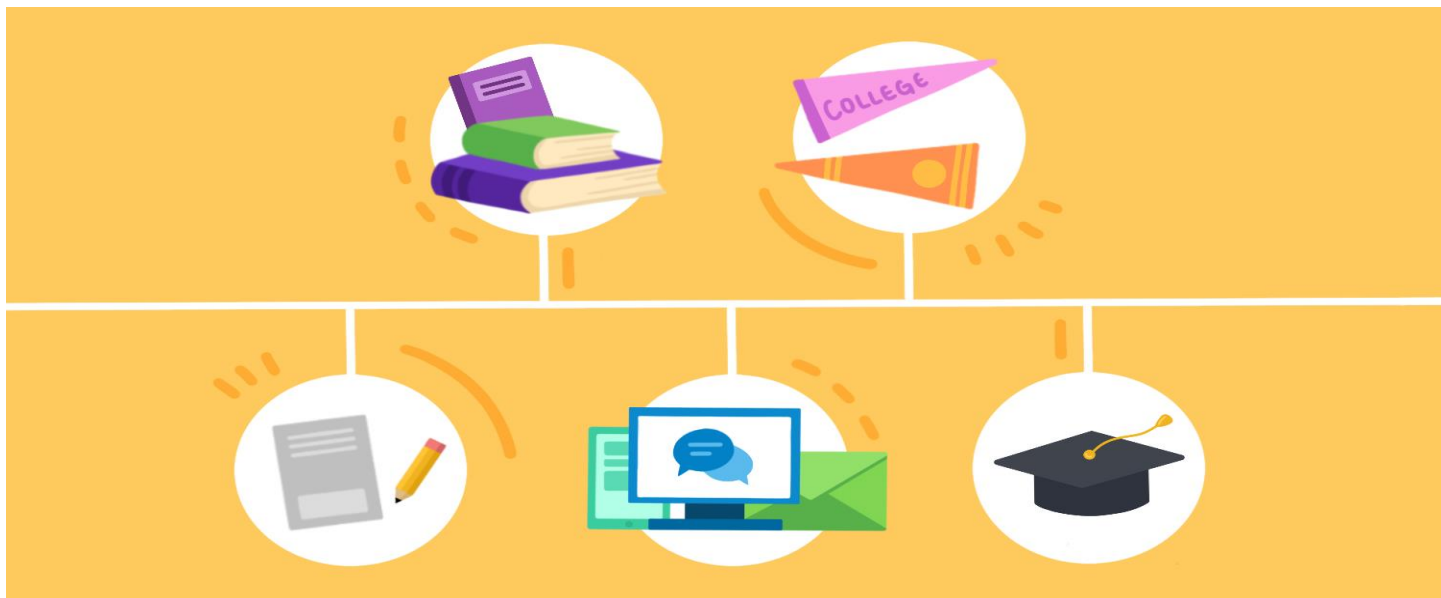


11th Grade Planning Timeline



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 in the Fall, colleges will see your final course grades from 9th-11th grade. Though counselors will upload midyear transcripts in February of your senior year, some schools may make admission decisions before they receive those 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.

Career & College Research

Now is the time to really focus on your career and college research. Here are a series of great articles and videos that can help guide your research: [Collegeboard - How to Find Your Best Fit](#). You might also use [Major Clarity](#) or [CFNC](#) to help guide your research or explore college majors.

Involvement 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 dual-enrollment: taking college-level courses before you graduate from high school in the Career & College Promise (CCP) Program
- Schedules for the PSAT, SAT, 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: conduct your research and be sure to find out about any additional requirements besides preferred GPA and test scores

December

Continue to research colleges and begin considering/planning campus visits

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.

Make a plan for the ACT & SAT

Junior year is an excellent time to take the SAT and ACT. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, 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! Many students will 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 (usually early March). Students can find prep materials and/or register for other ACT attempts at act.org.

SAT: students can find prep materials, testing dates, and registration information at collegeboard.org.

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 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.

January

Start (or continue) your campus tours online or in-person

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

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 on the transcript that is uploaded as part of your college application.

March

The ACT will be administered to all juniors in March 2023 (exact date TBA).

Also consider which spring semester 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.

Take the March [SAT](#) exam if you registered to complete it this month.

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

April

Take the April [ACT](#) test if you registered to complete it this month.

May

AP Testing & SAT Testing

Take any AP tests or SAT you registered to complete this month.

Letters of recommendation for college

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 - we recommend sending an email request that includes a [brag sheet](#) or any other information that might assist teachers in writing the recommendation. It's also best practice to send a follow-up email when we return to school in August or September.

June

Continue to visit colleges

Contact schools' admissions and/or financial aid offices for appointments (call or email). If you attend interviews or visits, sending a thank you note or email can be a nice gesture.

SAT & ACT: Take any test you have registered for this month

Summer between Junior and Senior Years

Review colleges' application procedures

Research how various schools accept applications (Common App, CFNC, Coalition App, directly through the school website) and familiarize yourself with those platforms. Applications reset on Common App and Coalition App on Aug. 1 of each year. Do not try to apply on those sites before that date.

College Essays...edit, edit, edit...and then edit some more

Continue working on your college essay over the summer. Click [here](#) for tips on "Presenting Your Best Self" through the college essay. You can use Ms. Wilson's [college essay workshop](#) to help you prepare

to write your essay.. College admissions counselors often report that students don't spend enough time developing their essay, so be sure to give yourself enough time!

Some schools require one (or more) supplemental essays; these additional essays are usually shorter but be sure to allot time for these writing prompts as well.

Application Timelines - Early Decision, Early Action, Regular Decision, & Rolling Admission

- Early Decision and Early Action usually require students to submit applications in mid-October and early-November. See below for more information about both of these options.
- Regular Decision typically has deadlines between December and February.
- Rolling Admission means the school does not have a set deadline; the school will accept applicants until the start of the semester or until it has filled their admission spots.

Early Decision vs Early Action

Early Decision is binding: if students apply Early Decision and are accepted, they are expected to withdraw their applications for all other schools and accept admission to the early-decision school. Therefore, a student would apply Early Decision to just **one** school...as long as they were certain they would attend that school if accepted.

Early Action is not binding students are not bound by an Early Action application. Early Action simply allows students to apply - and receive their admission decision - on an earlier timeline. Students may apply Early Action to as many schools as they wish.