

Junior Year

Good Ideas for Your Future

- ✓ Work hard to get good grades in as challenging classes as you can manage.
 - GPA is based off a 4.0 scale. Rank is based off a 5.0 scale. Honors and AP classes help students increase rank.
 - Taking Dual Enrollment and AP classes give you college credit during high school.
- ✓ Become active in activities (sports, clubs and volunteer work) inside and outside of school. Colleges will see you as a well-rounded person. This increases potential for college acceptance, scholarships and enhances career opportunities.
- ✓ Participate in volunteer activities and document the time. Pick up a time card in the counseling office.
 - You can turn a copy of your hours into the counseling office to have a designation on your transcript once you are above 40 hours in a year. The time card is due by the May 15th to record on your current year transcript.
- ✓ Make a list of your abilities, preferences and personal qualities. Start a personal resume. You can use the AZ CIS program to work on your resume.
- ✓ Take a personality test that matches college majors and careers to your personality type. Use the AZCIS program to take interest inventories.

High School Information

- ✓ Review high school graduation requirements.
- ✓ Meet with Mrs. Collins to discuss college interests.
- ✓ If you are behind in credits at the end of the year, consider correspondence, online, summer or night school. Make a remediation plan. See the counseling office to ensure planned remedial classes will count.
- ✓ Save all grade reports and transcripts. You may need it later!

College Testing

- ✓ For Dual Enrollment classes, registration is in May of the end of the year.
- ✓ Register for the October PSAT test in September. You can sign up and pay it in the front office. The National Merit Scholarship Program awards a large scholarship to high PSAT scorers in the junior year. It pays to study for the PSAT. These scores will not be sent to colleges, as it is a practice test.
- ✓ The SAT and ACT tests are given throughout the year, although the best time to test is in **early spring of the junior year**. This allows for a final retake if necessary at the end of the junior year. You will need this testing to apply to colleges in the fall of your senior year. Successful students start applying to colleges between August and November of senior year.
- ✓ Test to gain admission to 4-year universities; community colleges do not require ACT or SAT testing. Although you may need to take the test later if you plan to transfer to a university.
- ✓ The SAT is more a measure of reasoning ability; the ACT is more curriculum-based.
- ✓ Registration and practice books are located in the College and Career Center. Horizon's CEEB code is 030-054.
- ✓ Most universities accept both the SAT or ACT. It pays to research your intended college and take the correct test.

College Information You Need to Know

- ✓ Attend College night at Horizon. Go to the Regional College Fair and NACAC Fair. Dates will be posted in Media Center.
- ✓ The AZCIS program can assist in college searches that match your interest inventory scores.
- ✓ Start college planning; research colleges and universities through the internet or check the college and Career Center.
- ✓ Request information from colleges, in-state and out-of-state during the summer between junior and senior year.
- ✓ Know admissions and scholarship deadlines. Many out of state colleges have early decision deadlines.
- ✓ Visit campuses of colleges of interest. Many have junior honors nights or open house weekends for prospective students.
- ✓ Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse to play a sport in college. Best practice is to register at the end of 11th grade. You will need transcripts sent when you register, and at the end of your 12th grade.

Scholarships for College

- ✓ Arizona universities typically use for scholarships:
 - Grade Point Average up to the 6th semester (the last semester of the junior year)
 - Rank up to the 6th semester (the last semester of the junior year)
 - *(Senior grades count too, but generally occur after scholarship consideration).*
 - SAT or ACT scores
- ✓ Many scholarships require community service.
- ✓ Check the internet for scholarships starting in your junior year. See lists of sites that offer scholarship sites.
- ✓ Scholarships will be posted in Horizon Honors' college web page (under construction). Check often for new opportunities.