



Important Events for Junior Students and Parents

- **SPSV Annual College Fair:** Thursday, September 5th, 2019: 6-7:30PM (Gym and Cafeteria)
- **PSAT Testing- ALL 9th,10th & 11th grade students:** Wednesday, October 16th, Minimum Day, 8AM - 12PM
- **Cash 4 College, FAFSA Financial Aid Information Night:** Wednesday, November 20th, 6-7:30pm (Library). Filing period for FAFSA and Cal Grant Verification Form opens October 1, 2019 through March 2, 2020.
More information provided below
- **Junior Individual Appointments** with Senior College Counselor, January - May 2020. Drop-in's are always welcome.
- **Weekly College Rep Visits to SPSV:** September through March. All visit dates/times are available in the Counseling Department and through Advisory.
- **Kaplan SAT Test Prep Class:** Information will be made available at a later date.
- **Begin touring college campuses** on weekends, holidays and over the summer.

College Entrance Test Dates: All schools accept scores from SAT or ACT exams. Students are encouraged to take exams more than once. 1st time during Junior year and again during Senior year through December.

SAT (register at www.collegeboard.org)

Test dates: August 24, October 5, November 2, and December 7, 2019 / March 14, May 2, June 6, 2020

SAT Subject Test are not required for UC's however, some campuses recommend that freshman applicants interested in competitive majors take the tests to demonstrate subject proficiency.

Please check each school's requirement before applying.

ACT (register at www.actstudent.org)

Test dates: September 14, October 26, and December 14, 2019 / February 8, April 4, June 13, July 18, 2020

Application Deadlines: During Senior Year Only

University of California: Applications are available online August 1st; Application submission Nov. 1-Nov. 30. Late applications are not accepted. (www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply)

California State University: Fall applications are available on October 1. Application submission October 1 - November 30. (www2.calstate.edu/apply)

Private/Independent Colleges and Universities: Varies by School. Applications are available in August. Most private colleges and universities use the Common Application. Early Action Nov 1. Regular decision Dec. 1, Jan. 1, Jan. 15, Feb. 1 or even later; check individual college's website for exact deadline. (www.commonapp.org)

Financial Aid: During Senior Year Only

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, more commonly known as the FAFSA, is available beginning October 1. Filling out the FAFSA is required to access any of the billions of dollars that get handed out each year in college grants, loans, and work study awards.

The application opens October 1 - March 2.

CSS/Financial Aid/PROFILE: Additional application required for many private colleges and universities (register at <http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>). Check with individual school to see if this is required.

Student/Parent Action Plan: 11th Grade

Junior year usually marks a turning point. This is because for most students and families, it's when college planning activities kick into high gear. Here are some things you can do this year to support your child and give them the best options.

FALL

- **Have your child meet with their school counselor.** This meeting is especially important this year as your 11th-grader starts to engage in the college search process.
- **Help your child stay organized.** Work with your 11th-grader to make weekly or monthly to-do lists to keep track of the tasks required to prepare for college applications.
- **Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October.** This is a preliminary test that helps students practice for the SAT and assess their academic skills. Juniors who score well on the test are also eligible for scholarship opportunities.
- **Encourage your child to set goals for the school year.** Working toward specific goals helps your student stay motivated and focused.

WINTER

- **Review PSAT/NMSQT results together** by logging in to the student score reporting portal. Your child's score report shows what they should work on to get ready for college.
- **Help your child prepare for the Spring SAT/ACT.** Many juniors take the SAT/ACT in the spring so they can get a head start on planning for college.
- **Discuss taking challenging courses next year.** Taking honors courses or college-level courses like Advanced Placement as a senior can help your child prepare for college work – and these are also the courses that college admission officers like to see.
- **Encourage your junior to consider taking SAT Subject Tests.** Many colleges require or recommend taking these tests to get a sense of your child's skills in a certain academic area. In general, it's best to take a Subject Test right after taking the relevant course.

SPRING

- **Search together for colleges that meet your student's needs.** Once you have an idea of the qualities your child is looking for in a college, help him or her enter these criteria into College Search to create a list of colleges to consider applying to.
- **Help your student research scholarships.** This form of financial aid provides money for college that doesn't need to be repaid.
- **Attend college fairs and financial aid events.** These events allow you to meet with college representatives and get answers to questions.
- **Help your child make summer plans.** Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills – and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities.
- **Visit colleges together.** Make plans to check out college campuses your child is interested in.

**Some language and content taken from College Board- Big Future: www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org*