

CHANDLER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

High School & Beyond — News & Information

SEPTEMBER 2021

for Families of 11th Grade Students

Welcome to the Junior Year!

Junior year is very important because for most students and families, it's when college planning activities kick into high gear.

There are six key milestones that your junior should accomplish this year.

In 11th grade, your junior will:

1. Prepare for and take post-secondary entrance exams
2. Narrow post-secondary options
3. Research scholarship opportunities
4. Set goals, build a resume, & complete various interest inventories
5. Research internship opportunities, dual-credit options and workforce certificates
6. Review and sign off on Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)

This fall, your junior can prepare for education beyond high school by the taking the ACT and the PSAT. It is a good idea for students to take the ACT and for the past two years the state of Oklahoma has provided a free ACT test for all juniors in the spring. Some students may want to consider taking the PSAT test. The PSAT assesses academic skills and gives students the chance to practice for the SAT. Also PSAT scores can qualify students for the National Merit Scholarship competition.

The ACT and SAT are the main-entrance exams for four-year colleges. The PSAT is the practice test for the SAT and is given in October. **Free ACT practice is available on okcollegestart.org.** Students can learn more about each of these exams and the registration process at the following locations:

- PSAT / SAT www.collegeboard.com
- ACT www.actstudent.org
- ASVAB (military) www.asvabprogram.com

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PARENT POINTERS?

Stay attuned to your child's academic accomplishments on a weekly basis. Praise those accomplishments appropriately.

MYTHBUSTER

MYTH: Standardized tests (ACT, PSAT, SAT) are more important than high school grades.

REALITY: Performance in high school is a better predictor of college success than the standardized tests.

Colleges know that. That does not mean that most colleges won't look at your teen's SAT or ACT scores.

Some colleges have more applicants than they can assess. These colleges may use SAT and ACT scores to determine if applicants will be admitted.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- Register by Sept 19th for the October 23rd ACT Test
- **September 23rd Habitudes/ICAP 2nd Hour**
- **September 24th football homecoming**
- **September 29th PRACT for all Sophomores**
- **October 5th Free ACT for 10th-12th that signed up**
- **October 13th -15^h Fall Break**

If you are a part of our Title VI program or qualify for free/reduced lunches, see the counselor for the opportunity to take a FREE ACT.

Student Checklist

- ☑ **Make sure you take rigorous classes** like Algebra II, a foreign language, concurrent classes and honors courses.
- ☑ **Maintain a 3.0 GPA** by the end of your junior year. NOTE: The Oklahoma's Promise Scholarship requires a minimum of 2.5 GPA.
- ☑ **Start the year off right by talking with your guidance counselor** about the year ahead. Confirm that your courses will put you on the right track for college admission. Be sure to ask about test dates for the PSAT, ACT and SAT. You'll need to register up to six weeks ahead of time for each.

Family Checklist

- ☑ **Make sure your junior meets with the school counselor.** This meeting is especially important this year as your junior starts to engage in the college application process.
- ☑ **Encourage your junior to set goals for the school year.** Working toward specific goals helps your high school teen stay motivated and focused.
- ☑ **Help your junior stay organized.** Work with your junior to make weekly or monthly to-do lists to keep on top of the tasks required to get ready for applying to colleges.
- ☑ **Encourage your junior to register for the ACT.** There are many opportunities for your child to take the ACT this year. Studies show the more times a student takes the ACT the better their scores.
- ☑ **Encourage your junior to register for the PSAT/NMSQT in October.**

HEALTH NEWS

With all of the illness around us right now, it's not a bad idea to review how to prevent spreading germs! Follow these simple rules:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching mouth, eyes, and nose with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact from people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Then, throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.