



CENTRAL COLUMBIA

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11th Grade: Post-Secondary Planning Timeline

Hello. We would like to reach out to all of you to share some insights as to what is and should be happening during your student's Junior year in high school. I have listed numerous websites that can be used, no matter what post-secondary track your student pursues, to help navigate the difficult task of choosing a career. We have covered the following bullets with all Juniors in class and made the document available on their Google Classroom.

Eleventh grade is a key year in the post-secondary planning process, which includes standardized test taking, a stronger focus on future career goals, narrowing a college list, and investigating financial aid. The future job market requires most students to pursue some sort of post-secondary training.

Fall

- Now is the time to focus on a more specific post-secondary path. Decide whether you want to pursue full-time employment, further education or training (such as a vocational-technical school, career college, or two-year or four-year college), or a military career.
- Take the PSAT in October. Cost is \$16, and fee waivers are provided for eligible students.
- Reflect on your post high school goals by looking into the current and future job market.
 - www.bls.gov
- Make an initial list of post-secondary institutions that meet your most important criteria (size, location, distance from home, majors, and cost). Weigh each of these factors according to their importance to you.
 - <https://student.naviance.com/centralcshs>
 - www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Speak to college representatives who visit the high school. If interested in a specific college, let guidance know so that they can schedule a representative.
- Attend the Future Careers Expo. Students who attend will get the application fee to Bloomsburg University waived. If you do not go as a junior, please attend as a senior. A date has not been determined yet. When a date is announced, Mr. B will let you know.
- If you plan to participate in Division I or Division II athletics in college, start the certification process. Check with your counselor to make sure that you are taking the right courses to meet NCAA requirements.
- Discuss your post-secondary plan or ideas with your parents/guardians.



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Winter

- Meet with your counselor to review your graduation credits.
- If you took the PSAT, interpret your scores and connect your scores to Khan Academy for free SAT prep. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU UTILIZE THIS FREE SAT TEST PREP RESOURCE.
 - www.khanacademy.org/sat
- Review your initial list of post-secondary institutions. Collect information about college application procedures, entrance requirements, tuition and fees, room and board costs, student activities, course offerings, faculty composition, accreditation, job placement, and financial aid.
 - <https://student.naviance.com/centralcshs>
 - www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Learn more about financial aid. Don't worry about the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) yet. You won't fill it out until October 1 of your senior year. CCHS will hold a FAFSA completion session, where a representative from PHEAA (Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency) will help you complete the FAFSA in about 45 minutes.
- Examine your family's financial resources and gather information about financial aid from the schools in which you're interested. You want to make sure that you can afford the school you select
 - www.mysmartborrowing.org
- Begin narrowing down your college choices. Find out if the colleges you are interested in require the SAT, ACT, or SAT II Subject Tests for admission.
- Register for the SAT and/or ACT (the most common testing dates are Winter and late Spring of the Junior year, but this can vary student-to-student). The main difference between the ACT and SAT is that the ACT uses more science in the questions and has a bit of trigonometry. The SAT does not.
- If you are interested in one of the military academies, talk to your counselor about getting additional information about the application process.
- If you are not interested in pursuing any post-secondary training, speak with your counselor about putting yourself in the best position to land a job after high school. We will work on your resume and cover letter, highlighting your strengths, and research available career paths.
- Discuss your post-secondary plan or ideas with your parents/guardians.

Spring

- Prepare a challenging schedule for senior year. Meet with your counselor to determine what classes you'll take next year and to make sure you're on track for graduation. When you pick your classes, don't load up on easy electives. Colleges do consider your senior year courses and grades, so stick with a schedule that challenges you. Remember, AP classes are a good way to earn three college credits for \$93. See your counselor to discuss what options are best for you.



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- If you are interested in work experience or internships during your senior year, discuss this with your counselor and start looking for placements. The sooner this is finalized, the better.
- If you are interested in taking Bloomsburg University ACE courses at 25% tuition rate, speak with your counselor and schedule courses.
 - www.bloomu.edu/ace
- Stay involved with your extracurricular activities. Colleges and employers look for consistency and depth in the non-academic activities you pursue. Taking on leadership roles and making a commitment to the same groups are more important than trying out tons of new activities each year. If you have not been involved up to this point, get started. Join a club...volunteer your time...get a part-time job.
- Visit the campuses of your top college choices, if possible. Make sure that you show up with questions in mind, and ask them while visiting. You can apply for a college visit at <http://www.ccsd.cc/1/Content/1196>
- Search for scholarships. There are lots of scholarships out there; you just need to spend a little bit of time and effort to find them. Check with your guidance office for scholarships from local organizations and use online scholarship search tools to find a wider range of options.
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.collegeboard.com
 - <https://student.naviance.com/centralcshs>
- You may need letters of recommendation for your college or job. Contact your recommendation writers early. Teachers and school counselors are often asked to write recommendations for lots of students. Consider whom you want to ask now and let them know so they'll have time to prepare before getting tons of requests in the fall. Ask teachers who know you well and who will have positive things to say. Letters of recommendation from a coach, activity leader, or adult who knows you well outside of school are also valuable.

Thank you for your time, and we hope that this information is helpful. A detailed timeline addressing the senior year, a detailed description of Senior Seminar, and additional information will be mailed to you this summer. Thank you and do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Mr. B,
Mrs. Fairchild

High School Counselors
(570)784-2850 x3120