Beyond HCA - What should I do now?

JUNIOR YEAR

Your junior year is key in the college and scholarship application search. The college admissions process can be long and complex, and now is the time to learn as much as possible about your options. Start planning, preparing, and gearing up before the responsibilities and activities of your senior year begin. Focus on the future, but don’t forget to enjoy the present!

This is not an exhaustive list, but it will provide some sense of what you should focus on this year. For more detailed information and extensive lists, please view Helpful Websites/Resources.

Most Important Things

- Continue to be academically diligent. This includes taking advantage of as many academic opportunities as possible.
- Decide which activities you will highlight on your college application.
- Begin to develop a portfolio if you are interested in art.
- Pay attention to the increasing communication/information you will receive regarding college selection and application. Begin to check email regularly.
- By spring, have a preliminary list of 12-15 colleges.
- Plan ahead so that you know how the application process will work. Next fall is too late to begin the learning process.
- Decide how and when you are going to visit colleges.

Things to Understand

- The transcript showing courses and GPA from 9th-11th grade is sent with your college applications. This year’s grades are very important.
- College application options – early decision, early action, regular admission (view in Admissions Options).
- General timeline and application process – learn as much as possible about this before you get to the fall of your senior year.
- If you need scholarship money, start looking this year.

This Year You Should

- Memorize your Social Security Number – you will need it frequently over the next few years.
- Make sure you have an appropriate email address that you can keep for the next couple of years. In addition to the name itself, think through things like 1 vs. I, 0 vs. O – they can be confusing.
- Take the PSAT in October.
- Take an SAT prep course if appropriate.
- Take the SAT in the spring.
- Update Resume.
- Compile list of prospective colleges.

HCA Milestones to Complete

- Narrow college list to at least 3–5 schools.
- Arrange an initial meeting with the Mr. Robertson.
- Junior Year Resume Update.
- Take the PSAT, and the SAT or ACT at least once this year.
- Attend at least one college fair and/or make some college visits.