

# HAMBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL

## POST-SECONDARY PLANNING TIMELINE FOR JUNIORS

Parent copy

**11<sup>th</sup>**

**Fall**

- Ensure that you have the classes and credits needed to continue progressing through high school graduation requirements. Work hard to achieve the grades needed for your post-secondary plan.
- Know the requirements to complete the **Service Learning project**, due in February of this school year.
- **Find a career**: Continue to explore careers and areas of interest. Use resources like [careercruising.com](http://careercruising.com) (user/password is Hamburg email and hasdlunch#), [www.pacareerzone.org](http://www.pacareerzone.org), [www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)
- **College-bound**: Take the **PSAT/NMSQT** (only in Oct). In addition to SAT prep, this is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Service.
- **Career-bound/Military**: Take the **ASVAB** exam, a military entry exam that also provides results of student's knowledge and ability in several career areas.
- Consider why specifically you want to continue your education after high school so you will be able to choose the best school or program for your needs.
- Make a list of post-secondary schools that meet your most important criteria (major, size, location, distance from home, academic rigor, housing, and cost). Here is a list of just a few useful sites:
  - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org), [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com), [www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com), [www.educationplanner.com](http://www.educationplanner.com)
- In addition to exploring colleges/career programs using internet resources, also: meet with college reps that come to HAHS, attend college open house events, college fairs, community events.
- Sign up in guidance to meet with college representatives that come to Hamburg during the year.
- **JOB SHADOW**: Seek out opportunities to shadow various career field(s) of interest. Make an appointment with Mrs. Benz to learn more about this process.
- **If you want to participate in Division I or Division II sports in college, start the certification process.** Check with your counselor to make sure you are taking courses that meet NCAA requirements/PS minimum.
- If you are interested in one of the military academies, talk to your school counselor about starting the application process now.

**11<sup>th</sup>**

**Winter**

- Collect information about college application procedures, entrance requirements, tuition and fees, room and board costs, student activities, course offerings, and financial aid.
- **Begin narrowing down your college choices.** Find out if the colleges of interest require the SAT, ACT, or SAT II Subject Tests (most ivy) for admission.
- **Develop your study plan for the SAT and/or the ACT (391-620 CEEB Code).** Use PSAT results and Khan Academy. Most juniors will test in March, May or June and again in the Fall of 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- **\*\*When registering for the SAT, you can send your scores to 4 schools for free. Take advantage of this. This will save you \$\$\$ next year.**
- Have a discussion with your parents about the colleges in which you are interested? Examine financial resources and gather information about financial aid.

Parent Night  February 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00PM - **JUNIOR COLLEGE INFO NIGHT & COLLEGE PANEL**

(ADMISSION REPS FROM ALBRIGHT, ALVERNIA, KUTZTOWN, PSU BERKS, & RACC)

**11<sup>th</sup>****Spring**

- **still undecided?** Consider an apprentice program: Carpenter Union (Lebanon & Allentown #167), Electrical (IBEW Local 743), Elevator Union (Local 84), Finishing Trades/Drywall (Council 21), Fire Sprinkler Union (#692), Ironworkers Union (Local 489), Plumbers (Local 524), Roofers (Local 30), Sheet Metal (Local 19-Hamburg location)....to name a few [www.apprentice.org/northeast.html](http://www.apprentice.org/northeast.html)
- Meet with your counselor to review course selection and graduation requirements.
- Stay involved with your extracurricular activities. Colleges look for consistency and depth in activities.
- Consider whom you will ask to write your recommendations. Think about asking teachers who know you well and who will write positive letters about you. Letters from a coach, activity leader, or an adult who knows you well outside of school (e.g., volunteer work contact) are also valuable.
- Inquire about personal interviews at your top-choice colleges.
- **Take the SAT or ACT (with essay) between March-June of 11<sup>th</sup> grade. You should test either two times in 11<sup>th</sup> or once in 11<sup>th</sup> and once in Fall of 12<sup>th</sup>. If applying to IVY, take SAT Subject tests. STUDY, STUDY\***
- Visit the "Summer Programs" page of the High School Counselors Website to apply for on-campus summer programs for high school students.
- Apply for a summer job or internship.
- Be prepared to pay for college applications, transcripts, and testing fees in fall. *Let counselor know if you qualify for a fee waiver.*
- Visit colleges and/or attend college fairs. Spring – Alvernia College Fair (during school day)

**11<sup>th</sup>****Summer**

- **Visit the campuses of your top five to ten college choices.** Virtual visits are available at [www.collegeweeklive.com](http://www.collegeweeklive.com) but getting on the campus will be most valuable.
- Send a thank-you note after each college interview or meeting with a college representative.
- If taking another SAT or ACT, begin your study plan now. [www.sat.org](http://www.sat.org) or [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- *Continue to take a full course load of college-prep courses and challenge yourself in Honors/AP.*
- *Continue to participate in extracurricular and volunteer activities. Demonstrate initiative, creativity, commitment, and leadership in each.*
- ***To male students: you must register for selective service on your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to be eligible for federal and state financial aid.***
- *Check [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and the Scholarship/Financial Aid page of our website for information on scholarships and grants. Ask colleges about scholarships for which you may qualify.*
- ***Give recommendation forms to the teachers you have chosen. Ask them to send the rec to your counselor or directly to the colleges.***
- ***Apply to Colleges: as early as August but no later than December***
  - *Apply online through college website (many schools also use Common App)*
  - *Send your transcript (create a parchment account [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com)) \$1.00 for each*
  - *Send SAT/ACT test scores to each college (directly through SAT/ACT) about \$12 for each*
  - *Complete the FAFSA (financial aid application) opens October 1<sup>st</sup>. Finish as soon as you can!*
  - *Include any additional requirements (recommendation, portfolio, resume, interview, CSS profile)*
- *If you plan to apply for an ROTC scholarship, remember that your application is due by December 1.*

# Steps to Select the BEST College for You



<p><b>1. DETERMINE THE TYPE OF COLLEGE YOU WANT TO ATTEND:</b> Small, Large, Private, Public, Commuter, Residential, Liberal Arts, Technical, 2 Year, 4 Year, etc.</p> <p><b>2. DECIDE HOW FAR FROM HOME YOU ARE WILLING TO TRAVEL:</b> Do you want to be home on a regular basis or only once or twice a semester? Can you afford to fly?</p> <p><b>3. HAVE AN HONEST DISCUSSION WITH YOUR PARENT:</b> Are your expectations and theirs the same? How much money will they be able to contribute to your education? Will they be visiting colleges with you?</p> <p><b>4. CONSIDER YOUR ACADEMIC &amp; EXTRACURRICULAR INTERESTS:</b> Do you know what major you wish to study? Many students do not, so do not panic. Is it important to you to play a specific sport, be involved in a theatre group, write for a college yearbook, etc?</p> <p><b>5. RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH:</b> Attend college fairs, do research, talk to friends, alumni, counselors, neighbors, etc. Develop a list of colleges that meet your criteria. Narrow that list to 3–6 colleges.</p> <p><b>6. REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON YOUR SHORT LIST OF COLLEGES:</b> Look at web sites, get financial aid info, etc. Review admission criteria, program availability, support services, extracurricular activities and identify colleges to visit and/or to submit applications.</p>	<p><b>7. SCHEDULE COLLEGE VISITS AND INTERVIEWS:</b> Contact colleges to make appointments to visit or attend open house programs. Schedule a tour &amp; visit with all appropriate offices – i.e. admissions, financial aid, special academic services, coaches, academic departments, etc.</p> <p><b>8. BE PREPARED FOR YOUR INTERVIEW:</b> Learn all that you can about the college and create a list of questions to ask your interviewers. Take an unofficial transcript, list of your activities &amp; test scores with you to help determine your eligibility. Dress appropriately, be on time, get the name, address &amp; phone number of those you meet with so you can write thank you notes. Make notes about what you liked and did not like about the visit and college.</p> <p><b>9. COMPLETE ADMISSION APPLICATIONS AND FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIP FORMS BY REQUIRED DEADLINES:</b> It is essential that you identify application deadlines and meet them. The earlier you apply for admission and financial aid, the better. Remember that you High School Counselors are very busy and may take two weeks to complete your application before it is mailed.</p> <p><b>10. ASSESS YOUR ADMISSION OFFERS AND SELECT THE COLLEGE YOU WILL ATTEND:</b> Evaluate your admission offers, financial aid packages and how well each college meets the criteria you have established. Contact colleges to ask any unanswered questions. Identify the institution you plan to attend and make the appropriate deposits by the required deadline.</p>
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