



RMHS Juniors

College & Career Planning Calendar Checklist

September

- Continue to take challenging courses.
- Update your career and academic plan (usually in your Finance related class)
- Especially if you are a strong test taker, register to take the PSAT/NMSQT in October*, if available. **There will be a winter date if the test is not available in October.** This is the ONLY way to become eligible for the National Merit scholarship program.
- Try to take the SAT and/or ACT at least once this year (during the school SAT test in April*); take the SAT II tests only if required by schools of interest.
- Meet with your counselor/College and Career counselor to review courses needed for college admissions
- Hold a family post-secondary planning discussion. What type of education? What is the budget/support options? What are the goals?
- Take on leadership roles in school and/or community activities.
- Visit with college admissions representatives when they visit RMHS [online](#).
- Attend college fairs and financial aid nights.
- Get and stay organized.
 - Create files for copies of applications and correspondence.
 - Set up a calendar to track important dates and deadlines.
 - Keep copies of everything.
 - Create a professional email address for college correspondence

October – November

- Study for and take the PSAT/NMSQT-this is the only way to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Programs.
- Considering the military? Sign up and take the ASVAB at school (usually in November)
- Plan and make college campus visits.
- Search for scholarships and financial aid (federal, state, local, and private sources include corporations, unions, professional associations, clubs, and religious organizations, etc.
- Begin building a list of colleges.
 - Consider academic programs, location, size, cost, activities, athletics, housing, etc.
 - Get on their mailing lists.

December

- Review your second semester classes.
- Plan campus visits.
 - Visit different types of schools, e.g., large public universities, small private colleges, junior & community colleges, specialty and vocational/technical schools, etc.

January – February

- Attend RMHS College Planning Night* at RMHS in January

January – February (cont.)

- Thinking about a gap year? Look for the annual Gap Year Fair in Longmont/Boulder usually in January.
- Register for the SAT and/or ACT, if you haven't already done so. Study and prepare for them.
- Think about possible majors and career choices.
- Compare college admission requirements to your course load.
 - Select senior year courses accordingly
 - Choose rigorous courses (many colleges would prefer a small dip in your GPA when taking tougher classes, than a higher GPA taking the easiest options.
- Get familiar with the additional Concurrent Enrollment options for senior year. Apply in May, if desired.
- Take full advantage of the RMHS Career Xpo*—connect with community members for more information about careers, internships, jobs, etc.

March

- Continue post-secondary planning discussions with your family.
 - Estimate costs for each school and discuss ways to pay for each school.
 - Be sure your academic plan fits the admissions requirements.
- Narrow your list of colleges and post-secondary schools to five to seven schools.
- Apply for summer jobs or internships in your proposed career field.

April – May

- Take the SAT at school*. And consider taking additional ACT or SAT tests if needed (or SAT w/Essay or ACT + writing and/or SAT Subject Tests).
- Take Advanced Placement (AP) tests, if applicable.
- Considering a military academy or a ROTC scholarship?
 - Start applying. Meet with military reps, talk with College and Career Counselor about resources.
- Most students will need 2-3 letters of recommendation if applying to colleges and/or scholarships. Decide who to ask for recommendation letters; ask what information they will need from you and when they that need information.

Summer

- Improve your reading and vocabulary skills.
- Participate in/lead community service.
- Work in a career-related internship or job.
- Search for scholarships and ways to pay for college.
- Combine vacation plans with campus visits.
- Start working on your college essays.
- Talk to people in careers you find interesting.
- Talk to graduates who are home for summer.



RMHS Juniors College & Career Planning

ALL College Bound Juniors (2-year, 4-year, Career Tech Ed)

Log on to Xello (through your Clever icon) >Click on Colleges>Create your list of “Colleges I’m thinking about”

Use other websites to find good college matches:

- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- <http://www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/Pages/Default.aspx>
- [Xello \(linked in Clever\)](#)
- www.collegedata.com
- <https://ctcl.org/>
- <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Paying

Merit- or need-based aid that might be available through specific schools, federal financial aid and third-party scholarships can help cover the cost of college. Scholarship Search Resources are on RMHS website and Career Cruising. Come to the Career Center for more information. Helpful financial resources include:

- www.Fafsa4Caster.ed.gov
- <http://netpricecalculator.collegeboard.org/>
- www.collegedata.com

All Colorado residents are eligible to receive an additional stipend off tuition in through the College Opportunity Fund. Register at www.collegeincolorado.org.

Headed to a 4-Year College? Get familiar with:

- **Admissions requirements.** Do you have the classes they will require, and how does your GPA and ACT score match up to their averages? This can help to determine reach and safety schools.
- **Application due dates.** If the school is one you are especially interested in, you might consider applying early. Make a note of all regular and early deadlines for any college you are interested in. Know the difference between Early Action and Early Decision
- **Cost of attendance and available aid.** Talk with your family about what you can afford for college. Too many families choose colleges they might want to attend but realize they are colleges they can’t afford. However, some expensive schools might offer more aid, making them more affordable than they first seem.
- **Common Application** Be sure to know if the college you are applying to uses the Common Application. Some colleges use the Common app and their own application. Know all the required forms. (you might start your applications in the summer after JR year)
- In the fall be sure to check the “**Visit Schedule**” in emails to see when college reps **are connecting with Rocky students**. This is another opportunity to make that personal contact with the colleges you are considering.

Student Athletes? NCAA/NAIA—Make sure you have qualifying coursework.

- Student athletes planning to play Div I or II sports in college need to register with NCAA at www.eligibilitycenter.org
- **Students interested in NAIA athletics should get familiar with their requirements:** <http://www.naia.org/>

Planning on a Career Tech or 2 Year College?

- Many two-year career/technical institutions have fewer materials needed for admission. Get familiar with the programs you are considering—make sure you have the courses, tests, and/or GPA required, when applicable.
- **Check websites** for admissions processes and deadlines for applying, submitting financial aid applications, registering for classes, and payment.

Considering Military Academies?

- Meet with your counselor right away to learn about and meet early deadlines. Research the academies, and their extensive application process, and start the applications in the spring of junior year. We recommend that students also apply for the National ROTC Scholarships for each branch—applications open spring of junior year.

Thinking Military?

- Look for quarterly military visits* in the commons. If you have other questions, check in the College and Career Center for contact details.
- Sign up for the FREE, no-risk ASVAB at school in October/November.

Ready to Enter the Workforce and/or Apprenticeship?

- **Update and revise your resume.** Get help through the College & Career Center to refine your resume and help edit cover letters for job applications.
- Speak with the PaCE director about plans to find jobs, and opportunities for internships and apprenticeships.

*subject to changes due to health restrictions and closures