



CONTINUE TO BUILD ON SUCCESSES AT SCHOOL

Junior year is especially important because these are the most recent grades colleges and universities will see when you apply as a senior. Keep challenging yourself and take advantage of Honors, AP, IB, and concurrent enrollment classes, if available.

UNDERSTAND HOW TO USE COLLEGE SEARCH TOOLS AS A RESOURCE

Use **Naviance** and **Niche** to research colleges and universities, majors, and careers. You will use these tools as a senior when you apply to colleges and scholarships, so **it is helpful to get familiar with the tools as early as possible.**

CREATE A LIST OF COLLEGES THAT MATCH YOUR INTERESTS AND GOALS.

Research your colleges and determine if they would be a good fit for:

- **SOCIALLY:** What is the school culture like?
- **ACADEMICALLY:** What is the class rigor and do they have your major/program?
- **FINANCIALLY:** What is the cost of attendance, and how well do they meet financial need?

PREPARE FOR SAT

Colleges and some scholarships will look at your SAT scores, so make sure you study during the year to prepare for the statewide SAT test in April. Take practice tests and find free study materials here:

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| ○ COLLEGE BOARD | ○ THE PRINCETON REVIEW | ○ WWW.TESTPREPPRACTICE.NET |
| ○ KHAN ACADEMY | ○ MCGRAW HILL | ○ VARSITY TUTORS |
| ○ TEST PREP REVIEW | ○ KAPLAN | ○ POWERSCORE |

CREATE/UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL RESUME

Update your personal resume so that it highlights your accomplishments and involvement. Your resume should include school activities, work, and volunteering/community service activities. Here are some resources that can help you build your resume:

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| ○ NAVIANCE | ○ READWRITETHINK |
| ○ RESUME TUTOR | ○ PURDUE OWL |

WRITE A DRAFT OF YOUR PERSONAL ESSAY

This is the ideal year to gather college information. If you attend college nights and fairs now it will make your senior year that much easier. See www.coloradocouncil.org.

○ WRITE A DRAFT OF YOUR PERSONAL ESSAY

Most scholarship applications require a personal essay, and many colleges require one as well. Including a personal essay will support your application. Your essay will help you to stand out from other applicants. Find free help with topics, brainstorming, essay structure and more here: [The College Essay Guy](#)

○ BEGIN YOUR SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL AID SEARCH

Use tools such as the online FAFSA 4caster to help calculate how much financial aid you will receive and to estimate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Since scholarship deadlines are usually at the same time each year, you can use your junior year to find and save scholarships for which you may be eligible. Start looking up scholarships here:

○ [FASTWEB](#)

○ [APPEX](#)

○ [SCHOLARSHIPS.COM](#)

○ [CHEGG](#)

○ CONSIDER WHO TO ASK FOR A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Complete a letter of recommendation request form and keep it on file to give to teachers, coaches, counselors and/or advisors during your senior year. Most students need two letters of recommendation.

○ FINALIZE SUMMER PLANS

Explore summer jobs, academic enrichment, and volunteer opportunities. Be aware of college application requirements and deadlines. Look into workshops offered by college preparation programs at local institutions, as they can provide the information and structure you may need to get started.

○ QUESTBRIDGE COLLEGE PREP | SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Applying to college can seem daunting, and the prospect of paying for it can seem even more overwhelming. *But it doesn't have to be.* The QuestBridge College Prep Scholars Program equips high-achieving high school juniors from low-income backgrounds with the knowledge, confidence, and resources to apply to top colleges. **The Application is open until April 21st 2020 for this great program!**

○ CONSIDERING TAKING A GAP YEAR BEFORE GOING TO COLLEGE?

Explore programs that help make the most of your time during a gap year to help build your resume and transition you successfully into college. Check out the Gap Year Association for some more information.

QUESTIONS? YOUR DSF FUTURE CENTER COLLEGE ADVISOR & SCHOOL COUNSELORS ARE HERE TO HELP! STOP BY YOUR COUNSELING OFFICE OR DSF FUTURE CENTER TODAY!