

# are you on track?

Project:

~~me~~

grade: **Junior** activity: **9**

**Objective:**

Preparing for life after high school can be overwhelming. Start by using this calendar to help you keep track of what you need to accomplish each month before senior year.

<p><b>September</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identify sources of post-secondary education and career information in our guidance center. Start looking through guidance publications, catalogs, and guidebooks.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Put together a list of ten post-secondary education facilities that you would like to attend. Plan to apply to at least three to five schools.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Talk to your parents and your high school counselor about where you want to go to school.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Study and register for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Obtain dates and locations of post-secondary education fairs and "parent nights" in your area.</li> </ul>	<p><b>October</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take the PSAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Inquire about Advanced Placement (AP) or summer post-secondary education courses that may be available to you.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Attend post-secondary education fairs and financial aid/parent nights.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Use the internet to start surfing possible school or apprenticeship programs you want to attend.</li> </ul>	<p><b>November</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Start looking into eligibility requirements for federal and alternative student loans.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ask your counselor or Call 1 (800) 4-FED-AID and ask for free copies of financial aid materials, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).</li> </ul> <p><b>December</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Look for your PSAT/NMSQT score report.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Start planning to take the SAT I and/or SAT II exams, if necessary. You may also need to take the ACT. Check with the school facility you are applying to and find out about specific testing requirements. Ask your high school counselor about registration deadlines.</li> </ul>	<p><b>January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Go through the catalogs of the three to five schools that interest you the most.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> During your post-secondary education visits, make sure you meet with an admissions representative and a Financial Aid Officer to find out what types of aid are available.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Attend financial aid nights if you have not already done so.</li> </ul>
<p><b>February</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Start seriously investigating private scholarships and other student aid programs. Ask your advisor and counselor if any local organizations offer free use of a scholarship search program.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Register and study for the SAT (I and II) and/or ACT exams.</li> </ul> <p><b>March</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue investigating outside funding sources.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Register and study for the SAT and/or the ACT exams, if you have not already done so.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Junior Parent Night @ AHS</li> </ul>	<p><b>April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Begin scheduling visits to each of the three to five schools that are on your final list. If appropriate, apply for an interview and/or an overnight stay.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Consider taking the AP exams while information is fresh in your mind.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take an SAT prep course to help prepare for the upcoming test.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Begin preparing essays for post-secondary education admissions and scholarship applications.</li> </ul>	<p><b>May</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take the SAT (I and II) and/or the ACT exams.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In early to mid-May, take AP exams, which are given in high schools nationally.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mark a calendar with test dates and registration deadlines for the remaining SAT I and SAT II exams. You may take them during your senior year in high school.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue compiling information to find out which organizations award scholarships to graduating seniors (you may have to begin applying the summer after your junior year).</li> </ul>	<p><b>June</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take the SAT (I and II) and/or ACT exams if you did not take them last month.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Read a variety of books and magazines and review your math skills over the summer. This will help you to prepare for the SAT if you plan to take it in the fall.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Obtain a summer job that might be related to your career interests.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If it is possible, try to save some money from your summer job.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If you travel this summer, consider scheduling a post-secondary education facility visit.</li> </ul>

**tip**

Use "NA" if something doesn't apply to you

**NA** Inquire about Advanced Placement (AP)