

CLASS OF 2012 JUMPSTART

Junior year is the most important year of high school. Now is the time to really consider the future, because in less than a year you will be preparing for life after Morgan County High School. That may include applying to colleges, contemplating the military, or looking for jobs. Regardless of your plans, that time will be here before you know it. Junior year is the last opportunity to position yourself for success. Life is competitive, and there will be thousands of other people looking to edge you out of your top college, particular military branch, or dream job. Make this year productive. Here's how.

To Do List

- Begin researching different colleges of interest. You can check out www.GAcollge411.org
- Take the ACT, SAT, or ASSET/COMPASS. Typically, students begin taking these tests in the spring of Junior year.
- Schedule campus tours for spring or summer.

FYI:

- Junior year is your last chance to make yourself competitive. Colleges consider grades from freshman, sophomore, and junior years.
- Colleges place greatest emphasis on GPA, standardized test scores, and level of coursework rigor. Other factors that play into college admissions (at varying degrees) are good school attendance, letters of recommendations, and participation in school activities, youth groups, academic organizations, sports, extracurricular activities, part-time jobs, volunteer, etc. If you are lacking in these areas, now is the time to make a last-ditch effort.
- You can't apply for college admission as a junior. You can, however, visit and ask colleges to send you information. Students will begin applying to colleges in the FALL of their senior year.
- Money is always important when considering college options. Typically, most scholarships we receive are for SENIORS. However, there is an occasional opportunity for juniors. The best resource for scholarships for juniors is the internet. BEWARE of scams; never pay money for scholarships!

Where Do I Start?

Here are several websites and resources that you can use to research options.

www.gacollege411.org (college search, financial aid, online applications)

www.ecampustours.com (virtual tours and scholarships)

www.princetonreview.com (college search, tips on applying, practice tests)

www.fastweb.com (database of scholarship opportunities—even for Juniors!)

www.dtae.tec.ga.us/teched/schools.html (database of GA technical schools)

REMEMBER: The MCHS Counseling Office is a great source of information. If you have a question, come ask!

SAT VS. ACT

IMPORTANT THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Students begin taking standardized tests in the spring of their Junior year, namely the SAT and the ACT. These tests are formatted differently and cover different content areas. The two tests are pretty much interchangeable and universally accepted, which means virtually any school in Georgia will take either one. Ms. Smith can help you decide which tests are appropriate for your needs. Here is a brief comparison.

	SAT	ACT
Writing Component	Yes	Yes
Penalized for guessing	Yes	No
Sections	3: Critical Reading, Mathematics, Writing	5: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, Writing
Scoring	200-800	1-36
Cost	\$47.00	\$33.00 (No writing) \$48.00 (Writing)
Free test prep materials	Yes	Yes
Websites (Online registration)	www.sat.collegeboard.com	www.actstudent.org

Important Upcoming Test Date Deadlines

	Test Date	Regular deadline	Late Fee Deadline
ACT	Feb. 12	Jan. 7	Jan. 8-21
	Apr. 9	Mar. 4	Mar. 5-18
	June 11	May 6	May 7-20
SAT	Jan. 22	Dec. 23	Jan. 7
	Mar. 12	Feb. 11	Feb.
25	May 7	Apr. 8	Apr. 22
	June 4	May 6	May 20

If you are concerned about paying for these tests, you may qualify for a fee waiver. Talk to the counselors

Technical Colleges

Athens Technical College	www.athenstech.edu
Dekalb Technical College	www.dekalbtech.edu
Augusta Technical College	www.augustatech.edu
Gwinnett Technical College	www.gwinnetttechnicalcollege.com
Middle Georgia Technical College	www.middlegatech.edu
North Georgia Technical College	www.northgatech.edu
Central Georgia Technical College	www.centralgatech.edu

Two-year Colleges

Gainesville State College	www.gc.peachnet.edu
Middle Georgia College	www.mgc.edu
Gordon College	www.gdn.peachnet.edu
Georgia Military College	www.gmc.cc.ga.us
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	www.abac.edu
Georgia Perimeter College	www.gpc.edu

Four-year Institutions

University of Georgia	www.uga.edu
Georgia State University	www.gsu.edu
Valdosta State University	www.valdosta.edu
University of West Georgia	www.westga.edu
Georgia Southern University	www.georgiasouthern.edu
Georgia College & State University	www.gcsu.edu
Georgia Institute of Technology	www.gatech.edu
Albany State University	www.asurams.edu
Augusta State University	www.aug.edu
Armstrong Atlantic State University	www.armstrong.edu
Fort Valley State University	www.fvsu.edu
Paine College	www.paine.edu
Savannah State University	www.savannahstate.edu

Private

Emory University	www.emory.edu
Brenau University (female only)	www.brenau.edu
Young Harris College (Methodist)	www.yhc.edu
Truett-McConnell College (Baptist)	www.truett.edu
Toccoa Falls College (Christian)	www.tfc.edu
Wesleyan College (Methodist)	www.wesleyancollege.edu
Mercer University (Baptist)	www.mercer.edu
Berry College	www.berry.edu
Agnes Scott University (female only)	www.agnesscott.edu
Savannah College of Art & Design	www.scad.edu

Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Morehouse College (male only)	www.morehouse.edu
Clark Atlanta University	www.cau.edu
Spelman College (female only)	www.spelman.edu

SENIOR REGRET LIST: THINGS SENIORS WISH THEY KNEW A YEAR AGO

- **I wish I had a “DO OVER.”** Many students enter their senior year with academic regret. It is important that students perform to the best of their ability, stretching to get that 80 instead of a 79, that 90 instead of an 89. The impact in GPA is tremendous, and often times, GPA can stand in the way of attending a particular college, not to mention receiving the HOPE scholarship.

“If only I could go back and redo my classes. I would try so much harder.”

--Past MCHS graduate

- **I wish I had taken harder classes.** Colleges place heavy emphasis on rigorous coursework. This is particularly true with the more competitive colleges such as UGA and Georgia Tech. The average student at both these institutions have taken three to seven AP/IB classes upon graduation.

“While GPA is the most important factor in the admissions process, rigor of curriculum is a close second. We expect students to take advantage of the most challenging courses offered at their high schools. It is possible that a student with a 4.0 GPA who has avoided the challenging courses offered at their high school may not be admitted while a student with a lower GPA who has attempted the most rigorous courses at their school is offered admission.”

--from University of Georgia’s website “Top Ten UGA Admissions Urban

Legends,” Myth #4

- **I wish I had been more involved.** Colleges look closely at the activities record of applicants. It is important for students to be involved in extracurricular activities, both school related and within the community. An activities record helps create a more complete picture of the applicant. Colleges are looking for a well-rounded student. However, it is not always the number of activities that are important, but rather the level of involvement.

- **I wish I had visited colleges. Now I don’t have time.** Students should really begin visiting colleges as Juniors. College visits allow a student to envision himself or herself as a student at that college. College visits let you see the college town, the college facilities and buildings, and even experience a college class or two.

Things to think about/ask on a college visit:

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|--|-------------------------------|
| --Major or Programs | --Size of classes |
| --Opportunities outside the classroom
(i.e.—study abroad, internships, etc) | --Student body makeup |
| --Scholarship opportunities/ deadlines | --Distance from home |
| | --Job placement for graduates |

***It helps to make a list of the important characteristics of a college you want to attend.**

Remember, you are “interviewing” the college just as much as they are “interviewing” you.