**Glendale High School**

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**Guidance Office**

**2013 - 2014**

**JUNIOR PLANNING CHECKLIST**

**Glendalefalcons.org**

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We hope you find the following ***Junior Planning Information*** *valuable!*

***TOP 10 Junior Planning Recommendations***

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1. Maintain a folder with the following information:

* Activities
* Honors/Awards
* Leadership positions
* Community Service

Maintaining this information will assist you in developing a resume, filling out applications, meeting with interviewers, asking for recommendations, and applying for scholarships.

1. Prepare to take the appropriate “College & Career Ready” assessment. You can choose from the following:

✓Register “online” for the **ACT** at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). If you aspire to attend a 4year college, you should take the ACT at least once your junior year. NOTE: 55% of students increase their score with a 2nd testing. See ACT website for a list of all test dates & registration deadlines.

✓Register to take the **PSAT** to be given Oct. 16. Juniors wishing to practice for the SAT or who are interested in trying to qualify for National Merit should take the PSAT. Register with the financial secretary Oct 1-11.

✓Sign up with your counselor to take the **ASVAB** in the spring. Taking the ASVAB is appropriate for any junior wanting to learn more about personal career exploration, as well as academic strengths & weaknesses. NOTE: You can choose to take the ASVAB and ACT/ SAT.

NOTE: All seniors will be required to have taken at least one of the assessments listed above.

One other assessment option, the **COMPASS,** a college-ready-placement test**,** will be available

to any senior who has not yet taken one of the other assessments.

1. Investigate your likes & dislikes; your aspirations & dreams regarding future plans.

* Do you wish to go to a 4-year university? Do you aspire to pursue your education at a vocational/technical institution? Do you want to pursue job training? Do you wish to enter the military?

⇨What are your personal & career goals? ⇨What do you like to do during your free time?

⇨What do you excel at or enjoy doing? ⇨What is important to you?

* Visit the GHS Guidance Office to check out the following resources:

*⇨College Catalogs* ~ A number of four-year and two-year college catalogs are available that contain descriptive information about the school, its faculty, its course of study, financial aid and admission.

*⇨Files* ~ A collection of pamphlets & brochures are available that describe and promote their programs and campus activities.

*⇨College Planning Books* ~Several books are available with updated profiles of colleges with current facts on admission, competitiveness, costs, financial aids, programs of study, student life, regulations, faculty, and student body profiles.

*⇨Guidebooks* which include admission requirements, size, location, and campus setting, majors offered, and annual expenses.

*⇨Books* on specific careers and listings of trade schools throughout the US.

*⇨How to books* on writing college essays. Essays are required for many scholarships and some admissions.

*⇨The REAL ACT Prep Guide* ~ Get insider test-taking tips, learn strategies to do your best on the ACT; get all the facts about the optional ACT writing test.

* If you want to go to college, make a list of at least 5 colleges of interest. Use several sources: libraries; college representatives, catalogs and bulletins; high school counselor and/or teachers; directories, Internet; parents, siblings, friends, students and alumni; professionals in your desired field of study. (NOTE: Consider making a file folder for each college that interests you. You may want to group the files by *Reach* schools; *Likely* schools; *Certain* schools.)
* Identify college characteristics that are important to you:
* major and educational programs
* type of school and degrees offered
* location and size
* size and diversity of student body and community
* facilities
* types of housing available
* costs and financial aid
* college accreditation
* academic reputation
* Attend the **Springfield Public Schools College & Career Fair** ~ Oct. 1 from 4:00pm to 7:30pm at the University Plaza Convention Center. You will be able to visit with many college & career representatives and learn about their opportunities.
* When college reps visit school, take advantage of their time to find out what is new on campus and learn how admission decisions are made at their institution.

1. Continue to enroll in appropriate and rigorous courses for your senior year (Dual Credit, AP courses, and other advanced courses).

✓Be sure to check specific college entrance requirements.

✓If interested in participating in college sports, check all eligibility requirements at **http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA\_EMS/NCAA.jsp or www.playnaia.org.** Make sure that you are scheduled for the correct number of core courses during your senior year to meet all eligibility requirements.

✓Ensure that you are enrolled in Tutoring to complete requirements for A+. Contact Mrs. Leonard to verify A+ eligibility: [cleonard@spsmail.org](mailto:cleonard@spsmail.org), Rm. 104 or 523.8954.

1. Familiarize yourself with college applications, admission requirements, essays and scholarship opportunities.

✓Register with Fast Web: <http://www.fastweb.com>. Fast Web provides FREE information on scholarships, college search, and jobs and internships customized to the INDIVIDUAL student profile.

✓Plan College visits by contacting admissions offices at colleges of interest. Make appointment at least two weeks in advance of visit date. (As a junior, you can take one visit that will not count against your attendance, but you must follow GHS guidelines. Check with the main office for details.) Your visit should include:

* guided campus tour
* talk with students and faculty
* meeting with admission counselor to verify admission requirements
* meet with financial aid counselor to determine actual costs of attendance and types of financial aid available
* investigate your academic program and inquire about observing a class or two
* visit residence halls/student housing
* eat a meal in the cafeteria
* tour the city around campus
* visit an off-campus student hang-out

1. Be organized! Keep track of application deadlines, scholarship opportunities, testing requirements, and estimated costs. Use any web-based program to help you stay organized, ie. MO Connections, Admission by Design Student Portal, powered by MyCCA.net.
2. Check out helpful websites, especially **glendalecounseling.weebly.com**. See attached list of websites.
3. Begin evaluating your financial needs. Use the College Cost Calculator on many institution websites.
4. Arrange summer activities to help distinguish you as a candidate- to “stand out” in a positive manner; help clarify your interests and career goals: volunteering, internships, job shadowing and leadership positions. It can also be valuable for you to participate in a summer program on a college campus.
5. Set up an email account to use for college admissions or post high school ventures. Avoid user names that could be deemed inappropriate or immature.

***College Planning Websites***

**Help with Financial Aid, Scholarship Searches, and other College & Career Planning**

**Financial Aid/Scholarships**

**www.finaid.org** (The Financial Aid Information Page)

**www.missourimost.org** (Missouri MO$T Program)

**www.ed.gov/inits/hope** (Hope Scholarship & Lifetime Learning Tax Credits)

**www.upromise.com/mohela** (new ways to save for college)

**www.studentaid.ed.gov**

**www.fafsa.ed.gov** (FAFSA on the Web)

**www.pin.ed.gov** (get your PINs for the web-FAFSA)

**www.fastweb.com** (Scholarship search)

**www.srnexpress.com** (Scholarship search)

**www.gocollege.com** (Scholarship search)

[**www.OfftoCollege.com**](http://www.OfftoCollege.com) (Scholarships, planning tools, etc.)

**www.wiredscholar.com** (Scholarship search)

**www.missouri.edu/~mufinaid** (Scholarship search)

**www.scholarships.com** (Scholarship search)

[**www.ncaa.org/about/scholarships/**](http://www.ncaa.org/about/scholarships/) **(**Sports scholarships & internships)

**gehon.ir.miami.edu/financial-assistance/Scholarship/black.html** (minority scholarships)

**www.collegefund.org** (Multi-cultural students)

**ACT/SAT**

**www.act.org** (Online registration for ACT)

**www.collegeboard.org** (College Board---also try .com)

**Other College Planning**

[**www.dhe.mo.gov**](http://www.dhe.mo.gov)(Missouri Department of Higher Ed)

**www.ed.gov** (US Department of Education)

**www.ed.gov/pubs/parents** (Free publications to download)

**www.petersons.com** (Petersons Education & Career)

**www.skill-ed.com** (Career & College information)

**www.collegequest.com** (College Search)

**www.mapping-your-future.org** (Career Planning)

[**www.missouriconnections.org**](http://www.missouriconnections.org)

**www.onlinecollegefair.com** (College Search)

**www.commonapp.org** (Common Application online)

**www.naacp.org** (NAACP)

**www.ncld.org** (Students with Learning Disabilities)

**www.sss.gov** (Selective Service)

**www.militarycareers.com** (Military Career Guide Online)

[**www.nextSTEPmag.com**](http://www.nextSTEPmag.com)(college questions/answers from teens)