

Judah Christian School Guidance & Counseling Webpage



College & Career Readiness Contents:

College & Career Readiness: (Attendance, Discipline, Test Taking, Time Management, GPA, Extracurricular Activities, Community Service, Standardized Testing)

Elementary Grades (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/checklists/elementary-school>)

Junior High/Middle School (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/checklists/middle-school>); (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/todd-vanduzer/5-reasons-to-start-colleg_b_8253594.html). Reminder: Your high school transcript may start in 8th grade.

HS Freshmen (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/checklists/9th-grade>); (<https://www.petersons.com/college-search/planning-list-ninth-students.aspx#/sweeps-modal>); (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/how-to-start-getting-ready-for-college-in-9th-and-10th-grade>). Your high school transcript is important when applying to college. Challenge yourself and get good grades; plus, participate in some extracurricular activities and/or community service.

HS Sophomores (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/checklists/10th-grade>).

Continue taking rigorous classes, earning great grades, and participate in extracurriculars. Once you are 16, you can begin taking dual credit classes (placement tests may be required). For Parkland College testing information, see <http://www.parkland.edu/assessment>. Begin narrowing your college choice possibilities. Are three years of Spanish required for admission? If you plan to take the PSAT/NMSQT next year, you might want to take it this year as a preview. If you are going to take (dual credit) Illinois History next year, you will need to take the placement test at JCHS in the spring. Students with 5.0 grade point averages meet the academic requirement (1 of 4 requirements) to be eligible to join the JCHS chapter of the National Honor Society.

HS Juniors (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/checklists/11th-grade>; <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-parents/parent-action-plan-11th-grade>) The junior year is very important to college admissions—it's the last full year of grades you will most likely earn before you apply to college. Continue taking challenging classes and earning great grades. Register to take an ACT or SAT by June of your junior year for Illinois State Scholar eligibility. (Some students like to take it a few times during their junior year. You may take these assessments repeatedly; however, each test has a fee. See Testing for more information. Take the ACT with Writing if there is any chance you might want to be a PreK – Twelfth grade teacher.) The PSAT/NMSQT (“the ‘money’ test”), is scheduled for a Saturday in October. It is the entrance into the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying program

(<http://www.nationalmerit.org/s/1758/interior.aspx?sid=1758&gid=2&pgid=520&cid=1258&ecid=1258&crd=0&calpgid=61&calcid=1034>; 2016 Guide

<http://www.nationalmerit.org/s/1758/interior.aspx?sid=1758&gid=2&pgid=520&cid=1258&ecid=1258&crd=0&calpgid=61&calcid=1034>). JCHS offers AP US Government & Politics to juniors. Do you have time to take other dual credit classes, participate in extracurricular activities, and/or work? Students with a 4.67 grade point average or higher meet the academic requirement (1 of 4 requirements) to be eligible to join the JCHS chapter of the National Honor Society. Consider career interests. Visit colleges of interest and college fairs. Attend a JCHS

Financial Aid Night. Register for myIllini account if you are considering the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

(<https://myillini.illinois.edu/IdentityManagement/Home/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fIdentityManagement%2fDashboard>)

HS Seniors (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/checklists/12th-grade>; <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-parents/parent-action-plan-12th-grade>; <https://www.petersons.com/college-search/planning-list-twelfth-students.aspx>) There are also many other website that may be helpful depending on your values, interests, skills, and abilities. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>) website opens October 1 of the senior year for the following year in college. While it is based on household income, it also takes into account the number of children in college. This is also the way to apply for Federal Work-Study—it's just a checkbox on the FAFSA. If there is any chance you *might* be interested in Work-Study, check the box! Here's some information on applying to colleges: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/college-applications-how-to-begin-admissions>; <https://www.khanacademy.org/college-careers-more/college-admissions/applying-to-college>. If you are going to apply to more than one college/university and more than one accepts the Common App (or Universal Application), using it can save you time. Talk to Mrs. Lucas about this. Avoid Internet Explorer when completing the Common App (<http://www.commonapp.org/>). When using the Common App, you will need email addresses of recommenders. The email addresses of JCS staff are included on the school website. Also, I suggest a separate calendar to keep track of college application deadlines and scholarship deadlines. When visiting campuses, jot notes down about what you like/don't like as you visit campuses (<https://www.cappex.com/media/collegeVisitChecklist.pdf>; <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/campus-visit-checklist.pdf>; <https://www.nacacfairs.org/learn/search/campus-visit-checklist/>)—these important impressions can blur together or fade with time. When applying, see Mrs. Lucas to request official transcripts (exceptions--UIUC and Illinois State University). Many college applications require letters of recommendation (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/your-high-school-record/how-to-get-a-great-letter-of-recommendation>; <https://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/the-college-admissions-insider/2011/07/11/5-tips-for-securing-recommendation-letters>). Please give plenty of notice when requesting them. Providing a basic resume, identifying what you would like highlighted in your letter, and the due date is helpful information. (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers/careers/how-to-create-your-resume>).

If you have questions, please ask!

Please note: These links and information are offered as a courtesy. Judah Christian School is not responsible for any problems that may happen as a result of accessing these links or information. Links are not endorsed by or under the control of Judah Christian School. Thank you.