

TIME LINE FOR JUNIORS

2017-2018

September – December

1. All juniors will take the **PSAT** (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) this year as your standardized test for the year here at York Catholic on the morning of Wednesday, October 11. You will receive a preparation book in homeroom in mid September. Plan to spend some time reviewing the procedures in the book and taking the practice test. Ask someone at home to time you when you take the practice test.
2. Do as well as you can in your **classes!** This year's grades really count. Get help from teachers if you do not understand something. Don't let problems go unattended – talk with your teacher about getting extra help, ask for a tutor, or talk to your counselor. **Attendance** counts as well, and is part of your permanent record.
3. Do Initial Assessments: A **Self-Assessment** is available online at www.educationplanner.org to help you figure out the kind of student you are and what type of career you might find interesting. Good websites for career and college searches include www.collegeboard.com, www.cappex.com, www.careeronestop.com, and www.educationplanner.org. Visit the YC Career Room and explore resources there. Become familiar with “The College Handbook” and other college and career guides. You may sign books out of the Career Room overnight or for the weekend.
4. Attend the **College Fairs** at the local high schools: (www.pacac.org)

Monday, October 16, 2017 from 6:00-8:00 PM
York College of PA - Grumbacher Sports and Fitness Center
717-849-1600

Monday, October 30 and Tuesday, October 31, 2017
Baltimore National College Fair
Baltimore Convention Center

Sunday, November 12, 2017 from 11 AM-3 PM
Philadelphia National College Fair
Pennsylvania Convention Center

5. Encourage your parents to attend **College Admission Night** here at York Catholic on October 26, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the Library. Ms. Hess and a college representative will speak about the college selection process. Your parents may find this very helpful, especially if you are the first in your family to be applying to college.
6. **Mock Interviews:** All Juniors will participate in a 10-minute mock interview at York Catholic, with a human resource professional from the York community, on April 18, 19, and 20, 2018. Juniors will receive more information about the mock interviews in early April through a classroom guidance lesson.

7. Meet with **college representatives** visiting York Catholic High School. A calendar of college reps coming to our school will be posted on the YC website and in the Career Room along with a sign-up sheet. Check with the teacher of the class you will be missing to get their permission to attend. You will receive a pass in homeroom on the day of the visit and you will be expected to attend. An updated list of colleges participating and dates is also posted on the YC Website.
8. Continue to research careers by reading, talking with people about their jobs, and participating in shadowing programs. Talk with your counselor if you have questions. Use the **College Board Book of Majors** for information and the Occupational Outlook Handbooks in the Career Room.
9. If you plan to take **the SAT or ACT** college admissions tests in the spring, register now and spend some time working through the SAT/ACT online practice questions. As guidance, we also have prep books such as The Official SAT Guide, ACT Strategies, and Baron's SAT in the Career Room. You should register on line at www.collegeboard.org or www.act.org. You may also take advantage of the practice materials offered in paper format. Juniors are encouraged to take at least one college admission test during the spring of junior year.

Register early, at least 6-8 weeks ahead, for the SAT or ACT. If you wait, you run the risk that the test center you want will be filled. In that case you will need to choose the next nearest test center, which may be located in the Lancaster, Gettysburg, or Harrisburg areas. This can add extra stress on test day when you want to be calm and relaxed.

10. York College and Penn State York offer **SAT preparation courses**. Please check their websites for more information or visit the Guidance Office.
11. Plan to attend the **College Financial Aid Night** at York Catholic High School on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the Library. A financial aid specialist will be on hand to explain the process and to answer questions. Parents are invited as well as students. If you and your parents have questions about how to finance your college education, this will give you some ideas to think about.