

Garden Spot High School  
Post-Secondary Planning Timeline

**Junior Year**

Semester 1

- **Take the PSAT:** Garden Spot High School administers the PSAT to all 11<sup>th</sup> graders in October. The PSAT will help prepare you for the SAT. Juniors taking the PSAT have the opportunity to qualify for National Merit Scholarships.
- **Research:** Begin looking at school that are of interest to you. Your counselor, Naviance and the internet are all great resources for your college search.
- **Make a file:** Begin collecting information regarding college entrance exams (PSAT, SAT, ACT), the college application process and financial aid.
- **Attend Financial Aid night at Garden Spot High School:** Held in November, this event is intended for students and their parents to gain valuable knowledge about the financial aid process. A PHEAA (Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Association) representative will be present to answer any questions you may have. You will not apply for Financial Aid until January of your senior year, but it is never too early to begin learning about the process.
- **Build a portfolio:** Some schools require a portfolio for specific majors such as art. You can find out if this is necessary by looking into the admission requirements of the schools in which you are interested.
- **If necessary, see your counselor about testing accommodations for the SAT/ACT:** If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you may qualify for testing accommodations on the SAT/ACT. Please see your counselor to apply for the accommodations. We recommend contacting your counselor 6 months in advance of your testing date to apply for accommodations.
- **Junior Guidance Lesson:** Your counselor will be sharing post-secondary planning information with you during your Personal Finance class. Take notes, ask questions and discuss what you learn with your family.

Semester 2

- **Sign up for the SAT/ACT in February:** We recommend that you take the SAT and the ACT in the spring of your junior year and the fall of your senior year. The ACT is administered in April and the SAT is administered in May.
- **Attend the Garden Spot High School course selection night:** Held on the same night as Back to School night in February, counselors will discuss options and answer questions regarding course selection.
- **Enter your course requests in Powerschool before the deadline.** Discuss possible course selection choices with your teachers and family. Make sure the courses you select are relevant to your post-secondary plans.
- **Make a list:** Begin making a list of post-secondary schools that interest you. Use Naviance's SuperMatch College Search to aid you in this process.
- **Visit Schools:** This is a great time to begin visiting colleges or other post-secondary institutions that interest you. Taking a tour and talking with an admission counselor and current students will give you much more information than what you find online.
- **Military Academies:** If you are interested in applying to one of the 5 military academies (West Point, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, the Merchant Marine Academy or the Coast Guard Academy) you MUST begin the application process in the spring of your junior year. Make an appointment with your counselor to discuss the process.
- **ROTC Scholarships:** If you are considering applying for a four year ROTC scholarship, see your counselor before leaving for the summer.
- **NCAA Eligibility:** If you are planning to play a Division I or II sport in college, you MUST register with the NCAA clearinghouse ([www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)). This should be done in the spring/summer of your junior year.
- **Summer Parent Night:** The high school counselors present college application information to parents and rising seniors in August. Counselors will present the college application process including how to use Naviance for transcript requests and teacher recommendation. Counselors will be available for any questions you may have.