

El Camino High School

Junior Year College and Career Calendar

- Sign up for Remind text messages so you don't miss out on important information. If you have a smartphone, open your web browser and go to rmd.at/fg3ebe. Follow the instructions and sign up. No smartphone? Text @fg3ebe to number 81010 or go to rmd.at/fg3ebe on your desktop computer to receive email notifications.
- Continue to earn good grades! Maintaining your GPA during your junior year is especially important.
- Review the schedules for the SAT and SAT Subject Test, ACT with writing, and AP exams
- Determine if you should take these exams (typically if you are at a super high math level) and how they could benefit you, and sign up and prepare for the exams you decide to take.
- Review your academic record and profile, determine what gaps or weaknesses there are, and get suggestions on how to strengthen your candidacy for the schools in which you are interested.
- Determine what it takes to gain admission to the college(s) of your choice, in addition to GPA and test score requirements – See Naviance.
- Have a life outside of school! You should participate in extracurricular activities that you truly enjoy...not only because finding your passion in life is important, but also because college admissions officers like candidates that are well-rounded.
- Visit colleges in your area to help you learn what is important for you in a school.

August

- Create or update your 4 year plan with your counselor.
- Consider a Raise.me account to help generate micro-scholarships to schools you are interested in.

September

- Register for the PSAT exam offered in October. Remember that when you take the PSAT in your junior year, the scores will count towards the National Achievement Program (and it is good practice for the SAT Reasoning Test).
- Look for scholarship opportunities on Naviance.

October

- Take the PSAT.
- Use Naviance to narrow your list of colleges to include a few with requirements that coincide with your current GPA, a few with requirements above your current GPA, and at least one with requirements below your GPA. Your list should contain approximately 8-12 schools you are seriously considering. Start researching your financial aid options as well.
- Consider going on some campus tours. You and your parent(s) may want to visit the colleges and universities during fall and spring break in addition to summer vacation, so that you do not have to miss school.

November

- Consider taking the MOCK ACT at one of the local high schools.
- Continue to refine your college list and to study the websites of the colleges that you are seriously considering.
- Continue to look for scholarship opportunities. Besides Naviance, Fastweb and Unigo are great resources.

December /January

- You will receive your scores from the October PSAT with a College Board access code. Create your College Board account to receive free individualized tutoring via the Khan Academy (satpractice.org). Review your PSAT results

with your counselor and ECHS teacher, in order to identify your strengths and to determine the areas that you may need to improve upon. Depending on the results, you may want to consider signing up for an SAT preparatory course. Many high schools offer short-term preparatory classes or seminars on the various exams, which tell the students what to expect and can actually help to boost their scores.

- Continue your college search.

February

- Find out from each college the deadlines for applying for admission and which tests to take. Make sure your test dates give colleges enough time to receive test scores. It is a good idea to take the SAT and/or ACT in the spring to allow you time to review your results and retake the exams in the fall of your senior year, if necessary.
- Begin your student brag sheet in Naviance.
- Update your resume and list of activities.
- Update Raise.me with 1st semester grades and accomplishments to earn more micro-scholarships.
- Attend College Info Night – Feb 21st at 6:00 at ECHS.

March/April

- Refine your college interest list.
- Consider developing your digital story via ZeeMee.com.
- Continue to look for scholarship opportunities.

May/June

- Take the ACT with writing if you will be finished with English 11 and Algebra 2 (Math V03).
- Take the SAT if you will be finished with English 11 and Algebra 2 (Math V03), OR take up to three SAT Subject Tests if recommended by your prospective schools (typical for engineering majors).
- Take the AP exams if you have taken any AP classes.
- Update your brag sheet in Naviance. Talk to teachers about writing letters of recommendation for you. Think about what you would like included in these letters (how you would like to be presented) and politely ask your teachers if they can accommodate you.
- Add any new report cards, test scores, honors, or awards to your file and Raise.me. Visit colleges. During your visits, find out if you can talk to professors, sit in on classes, spend a night in the dorms, and speak to students about the college(s). Some colleges have preview programs that allow you to do all of these; find out which of the schools that you will be visiting offer these programs and take advantage of them.
- If you go on interviews or visits, don't forget to send thank you notes.

Summer/Before Senior Year

- Practice writing online applications, filling out rough drafts of each application, without submitting them. Focus on the essay portions of these applications, deciding how you would like to present yourself. Don't forget to mention your activities outside of school.
- Review your applications, especially the essays.
- Decide if you are going to apply under a particular college's early decision or early action programs. This requires you to submit your applications early, typically between October and December of your senior year, but offers the benefit of receiving the college's decision concerning your admission early, usually before January 1. If you choose to apply early, you should do so for the college/university that is your first choice in schools to attend. Many early decision programs are legally binding, requiring you to attend the college you are applying to, should they accept you.
- Refine your college list.
- Relax and get ready for your senior year.