



It's summer before **Junior Year** – Here is what you can be working on!

- ❑ **College Email:** If you have not already, create an email you will specifically use for college applications. Use this email to sign up for college newsletters, register for college tours, or to add your name to college websites as a prospective student.
- ❑ **Naviance:** Log into Naviance and start exploring – research colleges, take career assessments, and compare your academic profile with college admission statistics. If you have not logged into Naviance, email Ms. Porras ASAP!
- ❑ **Revise and Determine your College List:** Start to evaluate the colleges you are interested in and add schools to your “Interested” list on Naviance. Note trends or characteristics shared by the schools that you like.
- ❑ **Plan a Visit:** Visit as many college campuses as possible. If available, plan to take an official tour, plan a meeting with a department you are interested in, attend information sessions and ask lots of questions! If you can't visit, take a virtual tour!
- ❑ **Resume Organization:** Keep your resume up to date with awards, extracurriculars, and activities you would like to include in your applications.
- ❑ **Talent Recruitment:** If you're considering college athletics or the arts, this is a perfect time to start learning about the recruitment process. Get to know the initial eligibility requirements and explore all levels of competition and be sure to collaborate closely with your coach. For the arts, connect with your art teachers to understand how to build a strong portfolio, create audition videos, and prepare for any performance or audition requirements.
- ❑ **Testing:** Your class will be taking the PSAT and ACT next year. Summer is a great time to begin preparing for these tests. There are free test prep resources on Collegeboard.org and ACT.org. If you prefer in-person test prep, please reach out to Ms. Porras for recommendations. Additionally, there are a few ACT and SAT dates during the summer if you would like to get a jump start and take either!

Ms. Jennifer Porras

Cicero Prep College Counselor

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- **PARENTS** – This summer, you have a few key tasks to help support your child's plans after graduation.
 - **College Financing** – Start by realistically planning your college budget. This is a crucial step in building a balanced college list that considers both merit-based aid and financial need. Reach out to Ms. Porras if you would like recommendations for college financial planners.
 - **College Preferences** – Reflect on what matters most for your child and your family, such as distance from home, campus culture, and overall cost. Begin having honest conversations about potential colleges, using these priorities to help narrow the search.

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