

Junior Year Recommendations for Success

Improve grades, take the ACT/SAT and explore career and school choices.

- **Grades this year are a priority.** Your overall gpa is important, but the core gpa (English, math science, social studies, foreign language) is the most important. These core grades count for college admission as well as for the Louisiana TOPS Scholarship. **Grades made junior year are usually the last grades used for university scholarship consideration.**
- **Take the ACT/SAT during the junior year.** All colleges/universities will accept either college admission test, so prepare yourself to take the test in the spring after a semester of math and chemistry. Registering online at www.act.org for ACT and www.collegeboard.org for SAT. Send score to TOPS when registering (code #1595). Check the websites of the schools in which are you interested to determine if the ACT + writing is required or the SAT + subject tests is required. **All juniors will take a free ACT at Ruston High School in March.**
- **Explore Careers.** Career exploration can be done online through some good websites such Occupational Outlook Handbook www.bls.gov.oco/home.htm.
- **Begin exploring post-secondary education options.** Info on programs of study, admission requirements, scholarships and cost is readily available online. While you cannot apply until senior year, you can begin looking at information and comparing colleges. Spring break and summer before senior year are excellent times to visit colleges and universities. Students interested in applying to a United States Military Academy must begin the application process during junior year. Opportunities in all branches of the military can be found at www.military.com.
- **Register for NCAA if planning to play a college sport.** If planning to play a college sport at a Division I/II school, register online with the NCAA Eligibility Center at www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org. Remember to have ACT scores sent to NCAA (code #9999) upon each ACT registration.