

# **Pine Bluff High School**

## **Junior Class Presentation**

September 28, 2020

### **College & Career Planning Guide**

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**PLEASE SHOW THIS MEMORANDUM TO YOUR PARENTS**

**GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM FOR JUNIORS**

**2020-2021**

In the junior year of high school you'll make critical decisions that could have a major impact on the next five years of your life (and beyond) as you start narrowing lists of colleges and career paths.

**What Can Students Do?**

- Commit to succeed.
- Attend school every single day.
- Take exams seriously by working hard in class throughout the year.
- Make school and graduation a priority.
- Communicate with your teachers.
- Ask for help, if you need it.
- Take the most challenging courses that you can handle.
- Complete homework and all assignments regularly.

Juniors should review their educational plans.

**I. Requirements for graduation**

<b>4 English</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>4 Math</b>	Algebra I and Geometry required
<b>3 Science</b>	Physical Science and Biology required
<b>3 Social Studies</b>	½ Civics, ½ Economics, World History, American History
<b>½ Oral/Personal Communications</b>	
<b>½ Physical Education</b>	no more than one total P.E. credit allowed
<b>½ Health</b>	
<b>½ Fine Arts</b>	
<b>6 Electives</b>	One (1) being Personal Finance

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Students must complete a digital course for credit

Students must earn a credit in a course that includes personal finance

Students must pass the Arkansas Civics' Exam

Students must complete hands-on CPR training

➔ Students must have 5.5 credits in order to be classified as a sophomore (English 9 and Algebra I credits are MANDATORY), 11 credits to be classified as a junior, and 16.5 credits to be classified as a senior.

**22 TOTAL FOR GRADUATION**

**SMART CORE CURRICULUM**  
**(Graduation Class of 2016 and after)**

**English – 4 units**

- English 9th grade • English 10th grade • English 11th grade • English 12th grade

**Mathematics – 4 units; One unit must be taken at 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

- Algebra I or First Part and Second Part Algebra I (Grades 7-8 or 8-9)
- Geometry or First Part and Second Part Geometry (Grades 8-9 or 9-10)
- Algebra II
- Fourth Math--Choice of: Advanced Topics and Modeling in Mathematics, Algebra III, Calculus, Computer Science and Mathematics, Linear Systems and Statistics, Traditional Math Ready, Mathematical Applications and Algorithms, Pre-Calculus, or an Advanced Placement mathematics – Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable.

**Science – 3 units with lab experience (or 2 units with lab experience and 1 unit of Computer Science\*)**

- Biology (1 unit) (All students must have 1 unit of Biology, IB Biology, ADE Biology, ADE Approved Biology Honors, or Concurrent Credit Biology)

Two units from the following three options:

- Physical Science • Chemistry • Physics – 2 units

**Social Studies – 3 units (see note beside economics)**

- Civics – ½ unit • World History – 1 unit • U.S. History – 1 unit other social studies – ½ unit

**Oral Communication – ½ unit**

**Physical Education – ½ unit**

**Health and Safety – ½ unit**

**JROTC Health – ½ unit JROTC P.E. – ½ unit**

**Economics – ½ unit (may be counted toward Social Studies or Career Focus)**

**Fine Arts – ½ unit**

**Career Focus – 6 units**

**Computer Science – (optional)** a flex unit of Essentials of Computer Programming may replace the 4<sup>th</sup> math requirement or the 3<sup>rd</sup> science requirement.

**A. Requirements for honor graduates**

A student must have taken at least 10 PreAP/AP Courses.

A student must have a 3.5 or better grade point average.

A student cannot have an “F” on his/her transcript.

**B. Requirements for Valedictorian/Salutatorian**

To be considered for Valedictorian or Salutatorian, a student must have at least two (2) additional AP Courses in addition to the requirements for PBHS Honor Graduate.

After a student meets the Pre-AP/AP courses quota requirement, the valedictorian is determined as the student(s) with the highest G.P.A., and the salutatorian is determined as the student(s) with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest G.P.A. All ties will be honored.

**C. Minimum Requirements for Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship**

- Meet the following criteria:
  - i. Achieve a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent and complete the FAFSA.

## II. CLASSES AND GRADES

The junior year selection of classes -- and the grades you receive in them -- is very important because it is the last full year of grades that college admissions representatives will review while deciding your fate. You'll want to stick to a tough regimen of college-prep classes, including some advanced-placement or other honors classes, if possible. The courses and grades you receive in your junior year are very important.

Some of the teachers you have for classes in your junior year may also play an important role for you in your senior year -- when you ask them to write you a letter of recommendation for college -- so plan on spending some of the time in your junior year getting to know at least a few of your favorite teachers on a more personal level.

### **Grade Point Average**

Your Grade Point Average (GPA) is important because colleges and employers will use it to help them determine what kind of a student or employee you will be. Your GPA is simply the average of your semester grades, starting with your 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. PBHS uses the 4.0 scale in which an A=4, B=3, C=2, and D=1. Students who have all A's have a 4.0 grade point average. PBHS also has "weighted grades" for AP (Advanced Placement) courses. For example, an A in an honors course will be worth five points instead of the usual 4 points.

### **Class Rank**

Many high schools use class rank to show where students stand in relation to the other members of their class. The student with the highest GPA is number one; the student with the next highest GPA is number two, etc.

Class rank is usually written as two numbers (35/295). The first number represents a student's place in the class. The second number represents the total number of students in the class.

### **High School Transcript**

A high school transcript is a document that details a student's academic achievement in grades 9-12. A transcript is, quite simply, a copy of a student's high school record. Although the appearance varies from school to school, transcripts generally contain the following information:

- Grades and credits for each course completed
- Current and cumulative GPA and class rank
- Test scores

An *official* transcript has a signature, stamp or seal verifying its authenticity. An *unofficial* transcript is exactly the same as an official transcript, except that it has no signature, stamp, or seal.

Colleges need a transcript in order to determine whether or not an applicant meets their admission requirements. A transcript is also usually required when a student applies for a scholarship.

Be aware that it is your responsibility to clear any incomplete grades and make up any failures. If you think you are in a course you have passed, see your counselor immediately. Students repeating a course where they passed part or the entire course will not receive additional credit.

Juniors are reminded that the best recommendations they will receive for college or occupational placement will be based on their high school record, which includes their achievement record, activity record and personal recommendations.

### III. GUIDE TO COLLEGE TESTING

The junior year, from start to end, is filled with standardized tests.

**The PSAT/NMSQT** (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a practice test used to assist students in preparing for the Scholastic Aptitude Test, in short, the SAT. The PSAT is administered to pre-registered 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. Although colleges do not see a student's PSAT/NMSQT score, your score may qualify you for a select group of merit scholarships.



**SAT** ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)) The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is a college admission test which measures critical thinking and problem solving in Reading, Math and Writing subtests. Most colleges accept wither the ACT or the SAT. The SAT is usually taken during the second semester junior year.

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
November 7, 2020	October 20, 2020	October 27, 2020
December 5, 2020	November 5, 2020	November 17, 2020
March 13, 2021	February 12, 2021	February 23, 2021
May 8, 2021	April 8, 2021	April 20, 2021
June 6, 2020	May 6, 2021	May 18, 2021



State/National ACT Testing  
*February 23-26, 2021*  
Juniors Only

**ACT** ([www.act.org](http://www.act.org)) this is the college admission test published by the American College Testing and is designed to measure a student's academic achievement in English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning and Writing subtest assessment. The ACT is generally taken during the second semester of junior year although it can be taken in the fall of senior year. Some schools will require the writing portion of the ACT. The test schedule is listed below:

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
October 10, 17, 24, 25, 2020	September 25, 2020	No late fees
December 12, 2020	November 6, 2020	November 7-20, 2020
February 6, 2021	January 8, 2021	January 9-15, 2021
April 17, 2021	March 12, 2021	March 13-26, 2021
June 12, 2021	May 7, 2021	May 8-21, 2021
July 17, 2021	June 18, 2021	June 19-25, 2021

## IV. AP CLASSES

In May, if you have been taking advanced placement classes, you'll have the AP Placement Tests. Act 102 requires that in order to receive weighted credit for an advanced placement class, a student must take the AP Exam. These tests are designed to test your knowledge of the subject at college level, with the results recommending that you receive advanced placement or college credit for the subject. More than 90 percent of the colleges and universities in the U.S. recognize these exam grades.

Finally, in May or June, you should schedule the SAT and/or ACT -- the basic standardized tests that many colleges use as part of their admission criteria. Some of the more highly competitive colleges also require some of the five subject-specific SAT Subject exams -- so you may need to schedule the SAT Subject Tests in the late spring, although you could wait until the very beginning of your senior year.

## V. CHOOSING A COLLEGE

The junior year is THE time to get organized for handling the onslaught of college material that will be coming your way -- in the mail, in your email, and from college fairs and visits to your high school. The whole college search can be a little unnerving, a bit daunting, so just relax and take your time during this year and the summer that follows to really focus on finding the right mix of colleges for you. Ideally, by the end of your junior year you'll have a list of no more than 3 colleges.

**Reach school:** Your credentials may meet or are below the published admission requirements for the school.

**Target school:** Your credentials are in the range of the published admission requirements for the school.

### Safety School

- *Academic Safety:* Your credentials definitely meet or exceed the published admission requirements for the school
- *Financial Safety:* In addition to meeting your academic requirements, this school meets your financial situation.

### Types of Colleges

#### Four Year Schools

- *Universities*-institutions made up of several colleges each of which may have different admission and graduation requirements. Universities offer a broad range of majors and degrees. Liberal Arts Colleges- schools that offer degrees in non-technical areas.
- *Specialized Colleges*-schools offering a narrow program of studies usually focused on technical education or fine arts.

#### Two Year Schools

- *Community College or Junior Colleges*-offering associate degree programs that can be either terminal or used for transfer to a four year school. Most curriculums are very broad in scope, offering career and

non-credit courses, as well as, courses that are equivalent to the first two years of a four year college.

- *Vocational/Technical Schools*-specialized schools that offer a few specific programs and do not require study in areas outside the program of interest.

### **What is the Common Application?**

The Common Application is a not-for-profit organization that serves students and colleges and universities by providing an admission application, both on-line and paper, that students may submit to over 450 colleges. This allows a student to complete one application for numerous colleges along with individual school supplements. For more information and a list of participating schools, see [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

## **VI. FINANCIAL AID**

### **Types of Financial Aid**

Financial assistance comes in several types: grants, scholarships loans and work-study.

**Grants** are typically based on financial need and don't need to be repaid.

**Scholarships** may be awarded based on academics, special achievements or involvement in school or community activities; financial need is sometimes a factor. It is known as gift aid, and does not need to be repaid.

**Loans** are a significant part of most aid packages. The loan must be repaid, most often not until after graduation. Interest rates are usually lower than other types of loans. The repayment period varies from two to three years up to thirty years.

**Work study** refers to part-time jobs on campus; funding is provided through the federal work-study program or institutional funds.

## **VII. TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

**Scholarships** originate from a variety of sources. This section will help you understand who awards scholarships and why they support college education through this specialized funding.

Deadlines for applications and scholarships are critical. If recommendations are needed, **TWO WEEKS** notice should be given to teachers and counselors.

### **College Scholarships Come In Many Forms**

#### **College-Specific Awards**

Colleges often have scholarship money available that is used to develop the financial package offered to an applicant who has been granted admission. These **types of scholarships** are available under a variety of terms that may include maintaining a certain GPA or pursuing a specific major.

## Athletic Scholarships

Many athletes dream of going to college on an athletic scholarship. It's possible to achieve that dream, but these *types of scholarships* are highly competitive and the application process is a world unto itself. Awards are made through colleges, and applying for an athletic scholarship is akin to marketing yourself for a starring movie role. If you are interested in winning an athletic scholarship, go immediately to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Web site and begin reading as fast as you can.

According to the NCAA, athletic scholarships for undergraduate student-athletes at Division I and Division II schools are partially funded through the NCAA membership revenue distribution. These scholarships are awarded directly by each academic institution and not the NCAA. About \$1 billion in athletic scholarships are awarded each year. Over 126,000 student-athletes receive either a partial or full athletic scholarship. Division III schools offer only academic scholarships. They do not offer athletic scholarships.

Second, contact the financial aid office of the school you hope to attend. They should have lots of information about available awards.

Third, find and read detailed information about the process of winning athletic scholarships. You might start with the site, **[www.collegesportsscholarships.com](http://www.collegesportsscholarships.com)**, created by an athlete and his dad to help other athletes understand the scholarship process. It's all free and is a good starting point. Also, the Fund My Future site, **[www.fundmyfuture.info](http://www.fundmyfuture.info)**, provides a lot of good, free information.

**Academic Awards** - These merit-based scholarships are awarded by your college for academic achievement. Inquire about these awards at your school's financial aid office, though you may not even have to apply for an academic award; they are often wrapped into the financial aid package offered by the college, based on your college application.

**Departmental Awards** - Specific departments may have scholarships available to attract or retain students in the department's field of study. If you know what your major will be, contact that department to inquire about scholarships.

**Private Organizations** - There are thousands of private organizations that offer scholarship awards, ranging from \$50 to \$20,000 and more. Within the "private" category, there are many types of organizations to consider.

**Corporations** - Corporations offer scholarships to attract and retain employees, support the communities where the business is located, and encourage entrants into the business's field of work. These are often the scholarships that go unawarded for lack of applicants.

Search for corporation scholarships by checking with your parents' employers for possible programs, researching businesses in your region, and searching your newspaper's archives for award announcements. You may have a much greater chance of receiving a private corporation award because geographic, employment, and other restrictions narrow the number of candidates.

## Religious Organizations

Religious organizations often award scholarships to help their members afford the cost of college. If you and your family are affiliated with a specific religious group, check with your



local group about the availability of scholarships, as these types of scholarships are sometimes easier to qualify for than other kinds.

## **Unions**

Unions are a major source of scholarship funds. The AFL-CIO Web site is good place to start searching for union-sponsored scholarships.

## **High School or School District**

Your high school may offer scholarships to graduating students. Your high school guidance counselor can provide information about availability.

## **Chamber of Commerce**

Chambers often have scholarship programs, and they can be great sources of information about which businesses in your community offer scholarships.

# **VIII. CAREER RESEARCH**

Your career choice(s) may have a big impact on the list of potential colleges you consider, so it's important to at least try narrowing down career possibilities. How do you discover possible career paths? Conduct research, take some career assessment tests, talk with your family and other adult family friends, meet with your teachers and guidance counselors, and evaluate your likes and dislikes.

## **The 4 Step Career Exploration Process:**

1. Investigate-Discover your personality, abilities, skills and priorities
2. Match possible careers to your personality
3. Research potential careers to see if there is a fit
4. Prepare a plan to pursue your career choice

Juniors are encouraged to make realistic vocational choices as well as college choices. Jefferson Area Technical Career Center (JATCC) offers certification in several areas.

If at the end of this self-reflection and research you are still unsure, that's okay too. In that case, you may be looking at more comprehensive universities that offer a wide range of majors and minors. And if you conclude this step with a concrete career concept, then you can start narrowing down college possibilities.

Finally, remember that this research is purely preliminary. As you move to your senior year and then into college, many more career options will arise that you'll probably at least consider.

## **A. CAREER EXPLORATION WORKSITES**

Find high-growth and high-wage occupations by state or nationwide, and by education level.  
**[www.acinet.org](http://www.acinet.org)**

Descriptions and listings of occupations. **<http://online.onetcenter.org>**

Information on exploring careers and interactive learning **[www.exploring.glencoe.com](http://www.exploring.glencoe.com)**

My Majors gives you information about college majors, the types of courses needed to get a degree, what jobs are available, and information about great institutions offering these college majors.

**[www.mymajors.com](http://www.mymajors.com)**

Career Voyages - Helps you figure out where to begin to find a career, where the demand will be for jobs in the future, how to qualify for and get a job, and how to pay for your education.

**[www.careervoyages.gov](http://www.careervoyages.gov)**

Assess your Emotional Intelligence level

Survey to identify strengths and areas for further development-**<http://www.ihhp.com/quiz.htm>**



## IX. Options After High School

***“More than 60 percent of today’s jobs require an education beyond high school. More than 80 percent of new jobs will require an advanced education. What you earn depends on what you learn.” — U.S. Department of Labor***

**There are many choices you will make in your life**, and one of the most important is what you will do after high school. The decision of what to do after high school basically breaks down into three different options: continuing your education (4-year college, 2-year college, tech or trade school), military or work.

Continuing your education by attending college or technical school is one option available to you after high school. It’s important to realize that college is a choice, not a requirement. No one is going to hand you a college degree. Whether you choose a community college, technical school or university, you need to be sure this is what you want before wasting a lot of your time and money.

Another option you might want to consider is the military. Many students join the military to help them decide on what to do with the rest of their lives. The military has great programs and money available to students after they serve their enlistment term that helps them with college tuition. The military also has great career training and development for students uncertain of college and not sure about the work force. And if you're thinking of a military career, now is the time to meet with military recruiters to learn more about your options.

And finally, some students may want to go straight into the work force. There are many careers that do not require a college education. But please realize that most do require some sort of training after high school. You'll want to work on your career and job-search skills, such as building your network on contacts, developing a resume, and mastering interviewing skills.

If you know you will not be attending college after high school -- or at least immediately after high school -- how is your junior year important?

It's important because you need to start looking at prospective employers for after you graduate, and if you start looking in your junior year, you may actually be able to start working for the company the summer between junior and senior years.

Counselor assignment for juniors is listed below:

<b>Mrs. Laurent</b>	<b>Ms. Brown</b>	<b>Mrs. Bones</b>
A-G	H-O	P-Z

If you have additional questions about graduation, testing, or college planning



**EMAIL YOUR COUNSELOR!**

