By the end of JUNIOR year, each student should be able to answer “yes” to the following:

- Have paid close attention to topics and guidelines covered in Junior Seminar this past semester, and have asked / will ask follow-up questions on any of them that require clarification

- Have given a student questionnaire for teachers form to 1-2 teacher(s) of your choice

- Know your 6th semester Grade Point Average

- Have requested your unofficial estimated / projected Strength of Schedule rating, after receiving your Preliminary Schedule for senior year

- Have established accounts with the College Board and Naviance (unique access code)

- Have given serious consideration to the meaning of the terms “BALANCED LIST.”

  [College costs money, which could influence where you ultimately apply. Consider a financial “safe”, as well as an admissions “safe” school.]

- Have realized that even the top GPA/standardized test students do not necessarily receive acceptances to the top college of their choice

- Have made yourself aware of the Massachusetts Colleges and Universities Minimum Admissions Standards (http://www.mass.edu/shared/documents/admissions/admissionsstandards.pdf)

- Have made plans to work on improving your standardized tests scores and plan to devote a minimum of 30-45 minutes for your preparation each day between now and next fall

- Have realized that competitive colleges require autobiographical material and thoughtful essays on their applications

- Have realized that certain competitive colleges may require interviews, and that you must be able to articulate your thoughts, be aware of current events, and be able to look a person in the eye when conversing

- Have considered what you do in your spare time, i.e. athletics, work, volunteer service

- Have determined the standardized testing requirements of the colleges in which you may be interested. (https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/college-essay-policies)

- Have realized that specific standardized test requirements vary by college / degree program (test optional, SAT Reasoning Test, Subject Tests), know how to determine what those requirements are, and are planning accordingly

- Have realized that this summer, or before, is an excellent time to explore college websites and begin to focus on a manageable, if not final, list of colleges

- Have realized that many colleges schedule appointments during the summer months and that you should make every effort to visit the admissions offices of those colleges to which you intend to apply
Have selected a range of challenging courses for the senior year that will assist you in being a balanced student and not necessarily a ‘specialist’

Have realized that the Counseling Office is ready to assist you in your planning, but that YOU must take the initiative

Have considered and understand the difference between Early Decision (binding nature and ramifications) and Early Action (‘regular EA and EA-Single Choice’), and know the specific deadlines and requirements of a particular college should you decide to apply ‘Early’

Have realized that college decisions are primarily made on your three-year high school transcript, first semester grades of your senior year, standardized test scores, teacher/counselor evaluations, and the care with which you complete your college application and essays

Have realized that all of these criteria are evaluated relative to the same criteria for others in their applicant pool

Have registered with the NCAA if you plan on competing in Division I or II athletics at the college level (www.eligibilitycenter.org)

Have sent for a preliminary application for an ROTC scholarship program if you are planning to apply to one, and have sent your test scores to the appropriate ROTC program

Have sent a preliminary application to one of the Service Academies (if applying), have written to your Congressman and two US Senators for a nomination, and have made plans to send your test scores to the appropriate U.S. Service Academy

Have realized that summer activities can be a factor in college admissions