

SCHOLAR QUARTERLY

Winter Edition

11th Grade

COLLEGE ROADMAP

November

Now that you're done with the PSAT, think about your SAT and ACT! Have you scheduled when you're taking them yet? Don't delay taking your tests until the end just in case you have to take them a second time! Taking both the SAT and ACT can be beneficial because they both test different aspects of your knowledge and you may score better on one than the other!

November is also a great time to start thinking about how to prepare for your upcoming finals. Are there any classes you're struggling in? It's never a bad idea to get a head start on studying for that final because that extra time could make all the difference! Junior year grades have a lot of weight on them in the college application process so be sure to keep your GPA high!

December

Winter break is a great time for relaxing and recharging for next semester, but you can also use it to do some community service! Whether it be with your local I-CERV group or with some friends at the local food bank, try to do something during winter break to keep yourself active in the community!

Winter break is also a good time to start thinking about schools you may want to apply to next year! You can schedule campus tours during this time or explore college websites to learn more about their programs. It's never a bad idea to start looking at admissions data and learning more about average GPAs or SAT and ACT scores for the schools you're interested in!

January

Start thinking about who you might want to ask for recommendation letters for your college applications. Do you have a couple teachers who can write strong letters of recommendation for you? If not, start developing relationships with your teachers now so you are comfortable asking them when the time for college applications comes around.

This is also a great time to start thinking about mentorship. Are there any 12th graders who you know did well on their SAT or ACT or have already been accepted to colleges? Start talking to them and ask them if they want to share their study tips or if they have any advice for you ask you gear up to prepare for your standardized tests and college applications!

WELLNESS CORNER

Finals can be both physically and mentally exhausting for a high school student. There are many ways you can maintain a healthy and happy lifestyle while keeping up with the pressures of school!

As you gear up for finals, remember to give your brain a break during studying! If you feel yourself getting tired or losing focus, take a short 20 minute break and then get back to studying. [You can take a walk during that break, meditate, or even hang out with your family!](#)

In order to best maximize your studying time, try to stay off your phone and avoid social media on your computer. If you're one of those people that gets distracted easily, you can download [Self Control](#) on your computer or [Flora](#) on your phone to help keep you productive and off your phone! Try them out and see if they help you focus!

Time to Start Planning Summer Break

If you haven't started planning your next summer vacation yet, you may consider participating in a pre-college summer program. Many prestigious universities offer summer programs for high school students that focus on a variety of different topics such as debate, robotics, STEM subjects, dance and much more. Spending part of your summer at a prospective college is a great way to explore the campus, take a few college-level courses, earn college credits, and put yourself in the shoes of a real college student. Many programs have competitive admissions and open up in the winter so be sure to do your research and apply early.

Staying Involved In Jamatkhana

While it may seem difficult to balance school and stay involved in seva, it can easily be done! Volunteering at Jamatkhana or through I-CERV are activities that may be counted as extracurriculars in your college applications when it comes time to apply.

Scholarships

[AXA Achievement Scholarship](#) - up to \$25,000 - due December 14

[Burger King Scholars Program](#) - up to \$50,000 - due December 15

[Digital Privacy Scholarship](#) - \$1,000 - due January 30

[I Have A Dream Scholarship](#) - \$1,500 - due January 31

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR JUNIORS PREPARING FOR THE SAT OR ACT?

Please. Start. Early. Complete your testing during junior year if you can. I learned this from experience, because currently I am a senior working on college applications and studying for my standardized tests at the same time and it is not fun. Start studying as early as you can. You should also make a studying schedule and practice daily, even if it's for 15 or 20 minutes. If you are choosing between the SAT and ACT, I would recommend taking a mock SAT/ACT comparison test to see how you would perform on both tests. If you plan to take SAT subject tests, complete those early too. Don't forget about subject tests because some of the more competitive schools require SAT subject tests to apply.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS YOU TRY TO SHAPE YOURSELF AS A WELL-ROUNDED STUDENT?

To me, a well-rounded student is somebody who balances all academic priorities but is also distinct in what they do through their extra-curricular activities. A common misunderstanding is that students should join as many clubs as possible to stand out for college admissions but the truth is that colleges look to see what activities you spend your time on to understand your priorities and understand what kind of person you are. You should join activities that you genuinely care about - this will help show your personality to colleges.



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