JUNIOR YEAR PLANNING

- Meet with your School Counselor for your Junior Conference second semester to ensure you are on track for graduation and taking courses that will help you in your future endeavors, discuss senior year and post-secondary planning, college entrance testing, and much more!
  - A-G: Mr. Hehn
  - H-O: Mr. Nygaard
  - P-Z: Mrs. Knuppe

- Consider taking Honors/AP/Dual Credit Courses
  - Keep in mind that your junior year is the last complete year that post-secondary schools may review before acceptance and scholarship award, so it’s important to challenge yourself academically and maintain good grades.
  - Remember, with Dual Credit courses you will earn high school AND college credit at a very discounted price
  - Plan to enroll in these level of classes senior year as well

- Plan to take the PSAT exam on October 11th @ 7:30am
  - Sign up will be in Student Services
  - Exam cost is $18
  - Scores are important, as they are used to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Competition and the National Achievement program; plus it’s a preliminary to the SAT and a great preparation for the ACT (both college entrance exams).

- Start researching post-secondary options!
  - You can do this by reviewing college catalogs, websites, visiting with post-secondary school representatives that come to Central High School, attending College Planning Day in October at NSU, and going to the school campus for a visit.
  - When researching post-secondary schools, be sure to look at the admission requirements, to make sure you are meeting the criteria in regards to course work, tests (ACT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests), etc.
  - See your School Counselor if you have questions or need help in your research

- If you are looking at going into the military, be sure to review websites and meet with military representatives when they visit Central High School.
  - If you are looking at a military academy, most of those schools start the admissions process during junior year, so you will want to visit with your School Counselor

- Keep searching for scholarships!
  - Register with scholarship search engines such as www.fastweb.com, www.StudentEdge.com, www.brokescholar.com, etc.

- STAY ACTIVE AND CONTINUE TO BUILD YOUR RESUME!
  - While your grades in high school are important, post-secondary schools and scholarship committees also look at what you do outside the classroom.
  - They like to see that you are involved in various activities both inside the school and out, and that you take on leadership roles when available.
  - The post-secondary schools that you will apply to in the fall will already know your grades and test scores, but they need to know more about you.
  - Your resume should include school activities, community activities, community service, sports, awards and recognition, leadership roles held, hobbies and work experience.
• Consider taking the ASVAB exam in January  
  o The largest career aptitude test in the country. It will connect you to an amazing career research tool and it is FREE!  
  o If you are planning to enter the military, you MUST complete the ASVAB as a part of the application process  
  o Sign up will be in Student Services closer to the exam date.  

• Plan to take the ACT in the Spring or Summer  
  o Meet with your School Counselor to discuss the exam and to answer any questions  
  o Go to www.actstudent.org to build your account and start the registration process  
  o START PRACTICING!  
    ▪ SDMyLife has Method Test Prep, which is a FREE ACT test prep program.  
    ▪ Go to www.act.org to get information on test dates and to register for the ACT exam.  
  o There are numerous practice test sites listed under “Useful Resource Websites” on the Student Services webpage  

• Spring is the college visitation period. Many colleges have “Junior Days,” centered on juniors in high school. These days are fun, but if you want a more personalized visit that centers on you and what you want to major in, you should set up an individual visit.  
  o When you set up your individual visit, ask for appointments with departments of financial aid, admissions, academic advisers, professors, and other students.  
  o Student Services has a list of questions and other agenda items that you can take with you to help assess which college will best meet your educational and career needs.  

• If you are enrolled in Advanced Placement courses, plan to take the AP tests for that subject in the spring.  
  o Research the post-secondary schools you are looking at to see what score you will need to earn on the exam in order to receive college credit.  

• Begin thinking of teachers, counselors or other adults who you would want to write letters of recommendation for you.  
  o Even if you are planning to apply to post-secondary institutions that may not require a letter of recommendation, you may run across scholarships that do, so it is always good to have a couple letters of recommendation ready.  

• Make summer count! Summer is a time for fun, but you can also use it to your advantage. Build up your college savings account with a job and your resume with volunteer work.