

Shift into high gear. Your junior year is where momentum really starts to build. There's a lot to do but remember—the future looks bright.



FALL

Set up a meeting with your counselor.

Plan to meet several times this year. Have specific questions prepared each time and walk away with usable information and tasks.

Make sure you're taking the right classes.

You may want to consider taking additional credits in specific subject areas if you have a career goal in mind or if you're hoping to earn college credits or a career technical certification before graduation.

Keep your grades up.

The grades you're earning right now will impact your options next year. A solid GPA means you'll be eligible to enroll in Idaho public universities. A really strong GPA could mean more scholarship money. So, stay focused and ask for help if you need it.

Do more than school.

Participating in extracurricular activities can help you explore careers, get into college, and may lead to scholarship opportunities. Whether it's school-based or a community activity, find something you're passionate about and do it!



WINTER

Research college and training options.

Whether you're headed to a four-year college, a career technical training school, or looking for an apprenticeship, start researching options now.

Plan for the SAT and/or ACT.

Get a study guide for the SAT and/or ACT and start to prepare for the entrance exam you plan to take. Be sure to register for the exams in advance.



SPRING

Get serious about your options.

Contact admissions staff at the schools you may want to attend and make plans to visit those that are most appealing to you. Consider applying to three or four schools with programs that interest you. Be sure you include at least one "dream school" and one "safety school," so you have a reasonable expectation of getting accepted to at least one.

If you are looking for an apprenticeship, connect with your local Idaho Department of Labor office for help connecting with employers that offer programs and guidance on preparing your resume and application materials.

Don't panic if you still don't know what you want to do after high school. Use the interest quizzes in the career information resources on the Next Steps website to understand what jobs might be a good fit for you – and how to get there.

Time to test.

You should be studying and taking practice tests, so that you are entirely comfortable with the format, types of questions, and content areas that you'll be tested on.

Research scholarship options.

Like millions of students before you, you *can* pay for school. You just need to understand the process and investigate options and opportunities that make sense for you.

Get organized for your final year.

Develop a resume of high school activities and awards, if you haven't done so, and update as needed. Think about what you can do this summer to build your skills and add to that resume.