

FRESHMAN (9TH GRADE) HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING CHECKLIST

August

- Participate in freshman orientation at your campus
- Explore all the extracurricular offerings at your high school
- Colleges look for students who are involved, who have a highly developed talent or skill, and who have attained leadership positions
- Check your schedule for accuracy. Verify that you are in the proper classes to fulfill graduation requirements
- Strive for academic excellence and regular school attendance, which will result in an exemplary academic record
- Study hard in all your classes. **NOTE:** ALL grades you earn in high school will be included in your final GPA and class rank
- Start a file on your achievements that will eventually become a part of your portfolio

September

- Get acquainted with your school counselor
- Begin building your resume
- Explore career options
- Begin to research general information on colleges and universities you are considering
- Get in the habit of reading each day. Reading will increase your general knowledge and improve your vocabulary

October

- Beginning of 2nd nine weeks grading period. Continue to work hard and ask for help when needed
- Develop lists of your interest
- Create a personal file or portfolio that contains copies of your report cards, certificates presented to you, lists of awards and honors you receive, and list of all school and community clubs/organizations including all offices you hold

November

- Visit your school and/or local library or College/GO Center and do an interest inventory online
- Involve your parents in your career and college choices
- Become familiar with general entrance requirements

December

- End of the Fall semester, study hard for final exams
- Review literature available on preparing for college entrance exams such as the PSAT/NMSQT (www.collegeboard.com) and PLAN (www.act.org)
- Continue working on community service projects

January

- Beginning of 2nd semester. Review your grades from 1st semester and work hard!
- Review your new schedule to make sure you are in the right courses
- If you lost credit due to attendance go to the attendance office for information regarding credit recovery or ask for an ARC (Attendance Review Committee)

February

- Continue with college searches. Perhaps visit a local college or university either personally or online
- Explore financial aid and scholarship opportunities so that you will know far in advance of your senior year what is expected from you
- Select courses for next year. Talk to teachers about your course selections. Check with your counselor to be sure your chosen courses are preparing you for college entry. Challenge yourself with Pre-AP courses

March

- Utilize your Spring Break to provide community service or to visit colleges and universities
- READ, READ, READ
- End of the first 9-week period. Reflect on your grades
- Involve your parents in your career and college choices
- Begin learning the SAT most frequently used word list
- Job Shadow-explore your career interest by volunteering at sites that have careers that interest you

April

- Work on your writing skills
- Update your portfolio and resume

May

- Investigate summer school opportunities
- Set up volunteer community service projects for the summer
- Make a profile of colleges that interest you
- Study hard for 9 week exams

June

- Use your report card to update your graduation plan
- READ, READ, READ
- Continue with community service projects
- Involve your parents in career and college choices