

Freshman Year Planner

- Think about what you'd like to accomplish in the next four years. Identify your interests — likes and dislikes — not just in classes but also in every area. Create a four-year high school plan by setting goals for academic and personal success.
- Make sure you're enrolled in the appropriate college-prep or tech-prep classes and that you're taking key core requirements, such as English, math, science, social studies, and a foreign language.
- Get to know the levels of courses offered by your school. " Become familiar with the high school courses required by colleges, and determine if you're taking the right classes as early as the ninth grade. You can ask your counselor about what those "right" classes are.
- Visit the College and Career Center, Counseling Office, and Library to learn about the services we offer.
- Get off to a good start with your grades because they will impact your GPA and class rank. Although the college seems like a long way off freshman year, grades really do count toward college admission and scholarships.
- Establish effective study habits and time management skills. Use study groups/tutors as needed.
- Start thinking about your life after school, including the types of jobs that might interest you. Of course, these will change — often — but it's good to start thinking about the possibilities.
- Talk to other people, such as your school counselor, teachers, recent college graduates who are working, professionals in the community, etc., about careers you might find interesting. " Your counselor knows how to help you get the most out of high school. Be sure to take some time during the school year to discuss post-high school plans with your counselor.
- Participate in extracurricular activities. Academics aren't everything. Explore your interest in a sport, school club, music or drama group, or community volunteer activity. Remember that colleges would rather see real involvement in one activity instead of a loose connection to several.
- If you're interested in playing sports in college, research the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility requirements. The NCAA requires completion of certain core courses; you can find the specifics at ncaaclearinghouse.net.

- Start saving for your post-secondary education. It's not too late to put money aside. Every little bit helps! Learning about financial aid early on can also help you down the road.
- Get familiar with the PSAT-related assessments and SAT®. Take the free Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT 8-9) in the spring. Download the free Daily Practice for the New SAT app to get a feel for the kinds of questions you might face on test day.
- Work on earning your student service hours.
- Explore summer opportunities. Look for a job, internship, enrichment program, or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest.