

HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING

SOPHOMORES

Summer:

- Visit a college campus with your parent. It's a great way to get excited about college. Ask your School Counselor about how to set up and prepare for a campus visit.
- Get the facts about what college costs. You may be surprised by how affordable higher education can be.
- Explore career ideas. Make a list of interests, talents and favorite activities and start matching them with occupations.
- Come up with fun reading ideas. With your parents, look for magazines or newspapers you may like and talk about books they enjoyed reading when they were your age.

Fall:

- Meet with your School Counselor. Talk about college and career options to choose the most appropriate classes.
- If interested in playing college-level athletics, register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org. If you fall behind on courses, don't take shortcuts to catch up. Ask your counselor for help finding approved courses or programs you can take.
- Set goals for the school year. Working towards specific goals helps you stay motivated and focused.
- Regularly meet with your parents to look over school-work. Keep up on tests, papers and homework assignments. Celebrate successes and head off problems.
- Talk about extracurricular activities. Get involved in clubs and other groups! It's a great way to identify interests and feel more engaged in school.

Winter:

- Review PSAT 9 scores from last year with your parent. Log into the student score reporting portal to learn what you are doing well, which skills you should work on to get ready for college and career.
- Start thinking about ways to pay for college. Most families get help paying for college costs.
- Depending on the schools you are interested in, consider taking SAT Subject Tests. Many colleges require or recommend taking these tests to get a sense of your skills in certain academic areas.
- Visit the Career-Tech Center. Determine if a practical, hands-on education is right for you. Choose from 23 technical programs that utilize cutting-edge technology and state-of-the-art equipment.

- With your parents, discuss next year's classes. Make sure you will be challenging yourself and taking the courses college admissions officers expect to see.

Spring:

- Meet with your School Counselor to turn in Career-Tech Center Student Data Form and sign up for the program you are interested in. The sooner the better, spots are limited!
- Make a college wish list. Think about the qualities you want in a college in terms of location, size, majors offered and so on. Utilize Big Future to check out how to find a college that fits you.
- See how much you need to save for college with your parent. Use a college savings calculator to get an idea of where you are in terms of your savings goal.
- Make summer plans. Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills – and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Find out five ways you can stay motivated this summer.