

HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING FRESHMEN

Summer:

- Visit a college campus with parents. 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 the cost of college. You may be surprised at 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 planning college level athletics, ask your School Counselor for a list of your high school's NCAA core courses to make sure you take the right classes.
- 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:

- With your parents, start thinking about financial aid. It's not too early to look into types of aid that could help cover college costs.
- With your parents, discuss next year's classes. Make sure you are challenging yourself and taking the classes college admissions officers expect to see.

Spring:

- Make a college list. Utilize search engines (Career Cruising, Big Future) to get tips on starting a college search and figuring out what matters most to you when choosing a college.
- See how much you and/or your parents need to save for college. Use a College Savings Calculator to get an idea of where you are compared to 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.