

College Preparation Plan for 9th Graders

Think through the classes you want to take in high school and come up with a 4 year plan of courses.

- Challenge yourself academically by taking the most challenging courses offered, that you can handle.
- Work hard to **make good grades** in the classes you take. Your effort and success in high school will be big factors in determining which colleges you can get into in a few years.
 - Get help immediately if you begin to struggle academically. Start by talking to your teacher and your parents and get a tutor if you need to.

Explore your interests.

- Take an **interest inventory** and let the information it provides help steer the courses and extracurricular activities you pursue. Check out **CFNC.org** for some help exploring possible career directions based on your interests. This site has other valuable information as well.
- Try out things you are interested in via clubs, organizations, volunteering, etc.
- Athletes, who may want to play a sport in college, should begin creating and saving game tapes, statistics, awards won, etc. to document their abilities in the sports they are involved in.
- Artists/musicians should begin to compile videos of and/or portfolios of their high school accomplishments in those areas.

Create a log in at: **collegeboard.org** This account will be used to see your PSAT scores, to sign up for SAT testing, and to see those scores as well. You can also find other great resources and information at this site.

Take the **PSAT in October (or in the spring if that is when it is offered.)** You will need to have your log in information for the **college board** in order to see your scores when they are ready.

Begin your **SAT prep**. There is an educational website called "**Khan Academy**" that the college board suggests using for your free SAT preparation. Your PSAT scores can be linked to Khan Academy so an individual plan can be designed to help you prepare for the SAT that is based on your personal strengths and weaknesses. Another idea is to use an **SAT app**. to get a daily SAT question sent to you via email or text to work on. This won't take much time, but will keep you thinking about and practicing the types of questions that will be on the test. Look over the correct answers of the problems you miss and make sure you understand them. If you do not, ask someone to explain them to you.

Begin thinking about your plans after high school. Are you going to college? If so, what type of college or training might you want to pursue? Begin researching the types of opportunities out there. You can research specific colleges online, or visit some, when you have the chance. Use a standard form to gather some information about each place you visit so multiple colleges can be compared easily. You can type the school name and "college data" into a search engine and you will get some great info. about the school.

Read good literature throughout the school year, and during the summer.

Use your summer to help you move towards your goals and pursue your interests

- Volunteer at a place related to your interests/career goals.
- Participate in educational programs of interest.
- Serve others.
- Get a job (Chick-Fil-A hires young people, babysit, mow lawns, pet sit, etc.) to save for college.
- Take an **SAT prep** class or spend time prepping on your own. (See "college planning for all grades" for more info on this.)