

Freshman Year

- Students and parents should talk with their advisor about future plans (the next four years of high school, college, career). The courses that a student might want to take in his or her junior and senior years may require prerequisite classes that should be taken as a freshman or sophomore. However, parents should be careful *not* to micromanage their children in an attempt to create the “perfect” college applicant. Each student should be allowed to grow at his or her own pace, and some courses or activities may be inappropriate for an individual student.
- Students and their families should explore opportunities to get involved in non-academic programs such as clubs, sports, community service and part-time employment. Try out for a sport and/or join a club. A part-time job can also provide an opportunity to save some money to apply towards college expenses. Parents should not approach their children’s extracurricular activities solely as stepping stones to college, but as opportunities for students to develop important character traits, such as teamwork, leadership, responsibility, and a strong work ethic.
- Members of the College Counseling Staff will meet with students during the school day. Students will discuss the elements of a transcript and suggestions on how to begin working on a résumé.
- Parents should plan to attend the parent night.
- As summer approaches, students and parents should remember that any jobs, camps, or special programs can be included on the résumé.

Sophomore Year

- Students will take the PSAT as practice for the SAT Reasoning Test. Since the tests are geared for juniors, they should be regarded as little more than a dry run.
- Parents should plan to attend the parent night.
- Students and parents should review course selection to be sure that the appropriate prerequisite classes are being taken for the curriculum you might want to take as a junior or senior.
- Over the summer, a family *may* want to include a few college visits in their vacation plans. At this stage, these should probably be little more than drive-bys.
- Students should update their résumés to reflect recent awards, activities, and extracurricular involvements.