

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE CHECKLIST

ACHIEVE

DO WELL IN SCHOOL

- Set goals for the year
- Go to all of your classes & turn in all of your assignments
- Discover how you learn best
- Learn how to take notes, make outlines and do research
- Read! It makes you smarter
- Practice communication skills
- Practice writing college and scholarship essays



TAKE THE RIGHT CLASSES

- Challenge yourself with honors or advanced classes
- Explore ways to earn college credit while you're in high school
- 11th grade: Review your transcript and 12th grade class schedule with your counselor



GET ORGANIZED

- Use a planner or calendar
- Keep papers organized in a binder
- Practice good study habits
- Create a folder of important documents
- Create a resume with your list of activities
- Use a professional email for school needs

PREPARE FOR ADMISSIONS TESTS

- 10th grade: Take the PSAT 10 or ACT ASPIRE & review your scores with your counselor
- 11th grade
 - Fall: take the PSAT/NMSQT
 - Fall: take practice tests and review
 - Spring: sign up for and take the SAT or ACT



ENGAGE

GET INVOLVED

- Get involved in school activities
- Join community-based organizations or recreational centers
- Volunteer in your community

SPEND TIME WITH GOOD PEOPLE

- Hang out with friends who share positive goals and interests
- Find a mentor: a parent, teacher, counselor, coach, other trusted adult, or older student you can talk to
- Be a role model and mentor for younger students

EXPLORE

EXPLORE CAREERS

- Explore different occupations that match your interests
 - Create a list of careers and the education you will need
 - Talk to professionals in that occupation
- Talk about your future dreams and plans with your family, friends, and other adults and set goals

EXPLORE COLLEGES

- Create a list of colleges that interest you:
 - Confirm that they have the program or major for your chosen career
 - Confirm you meet admission requirements
 - Research special requirements and deadlines for the arts, sports, or military or if you are undocumented
 - 11th grade: Create a list of deadlines for your top colleges
- Visit college campuses
- Attend a nearby college fair

LEARN ABOUT PAYING FOR COLLEGE

- You can afford college. Learn about financial aid
- Set up a college savings account now. Look into matched savings accounts that provide extra money for college.
- Search and apply for scholarships
- Explore the net prices of colleges
- Complete FAFSA4Caster

