

What Can You Do To Prepare for College?!?

10th Grade – Sophomore Year

Concentrate on academic preparation and continue to develop basic skills and co-curricular interests.

September

- Start preparing to take the PSAT in October. The PSAT is a preliminary test that will prepare you for the SAT.
- All 10th grade students are given the PSAT, paid for by the school district.
- Take NCAA-approved courses if you want to play sports in college.

October

- Take the PSAT for practice. The results will not be used for college admission.
- Sign up, if you have not done so already, for co-curricular activities that interests you. The level of involvement and accomplishment is most important, not the number of activities.
- Keep a record of your co-curricular involvement, volunteer work and employment (all year).

November

- Make sure you are “on top” of your academic work. If necessary, meet with your teacher for additional help.
- Save your best work in academic courses and the arts for your academic portfolio (all year).

December

- Receive results of PSAT. Read materials sent with your score report. Consult your school counselor to improve on future standardized tests and courses to discuss which may be required or beneficial for your post-high school plans.

January

- Keep studying!
- Volunteer—a great way to identify your interests and to develop skills.

February

- It is never too early to start researching colleges and universities. Visit your guidance office to browse through literature and guidebooks or surf the Web and check out college and university home pages.

March

- Research SAT/ACT prep programs (optional).

April

- Continue to research career options and consider possible college majors that will help you achieve your career goals.

May

- Plan now for wise use of your summer. Consider taking a summer course or participating in a special program (e.g., for prospective engineers or journalists or for those interested in theatre or music) at a local college or community college. Consider working or volunteering.

June

- If you work, save some of your earnings for college.

July

- During the summer, you may want to sign up for a PSAT/SAT prep course, use computer software, or do the practice tests in books designed to familiarize you with standardized tests.
- Make your summer productive. Continue reading to increase your vocabulary.