

HIGHER EDUCATION PLANNING TIPS FOR THE SOPHOMORE YEAR

- _____ Familiarize yourself with the **resources** available to you in the **Counseling Office** to help with you college/career planning. Attend your appointment with your counselor regarding course selection and plans after high school. Look at **Career Pathways** in your *Program of Studies*...do the courses that you are taking match your “career cluster” and goals?
- _____ Develop and update plans for course selection and participation in school activities and community service. (Make **lists** of activities, special recognition and community service...revise your lists as often as needed)
- _____ Plan to take the **PSAT/NMSQT** in October of your junior year. Plan to take the **SAT** or **ACT** in the Spring of your junior year. Some colleges are SAT/ACT Optional...it helps to take a test just incase it is required.

Do plan to take an academic science.

Do plan to take an academic math.

Do plan to take a world language.

Do begin discussing your future plans with your parents/guardians. Don't rule out any options at this point. Internships...Dual Enrollment...lots of opportunities!

Do plan to meet with a recruiter if you are thinking about the Military. The **ASVAB** may be something that you want to consider preparing for and taking while working with a recruiter.

Do visit some local colleges/technical schools to get a sense of size and atmosphere. **Do** visit many different types of colleges/technical schools (large/urban, small, community college etc.)

Don't assume that colleges you have never heard of can't be very good---many little known colleges are first rate schools.

Don't assume that English grammar will be of NO use to you if you are interested in science or math fields. You will have to **write** in any career that you select.

Don't assume that your talents in extra-curricular activities will compensate for lackluster grades. It's never too late to focus your time on your school work!

Do take the time to plan ahead to ensure a smooth process during your junior and senior years...Your teachers and counselors are a part of this planning!