



Freshman (9th Grade) College Readiness Checklist

September-June

- Inform your counselor that you are planning to attend college and that your schedule of classes must include college preparatory courses.
- Get in the habit of reviewing admission requirements for the colleges you might consider upon graduation. Make certain the courses you have chosen and the academic level are consistent with these requirements.
- Develop your interest in extra-curricular and community activities. Colleges look for students who are involved, who have a highly developed talent or skill, and who have attained leadership positions.
- Learn to type and word process (at a minimum), and improve your ability to take notes and prepare for exams.
- Review literature available on preparing for college entrance exam: PSAT, SAT www.collegeboard.com and ACT www.act.org
- Get in the habit of reading for pleasure each day. Reading will increase your general knowledge and improve your vocabulary. Read selected books from a college-bound book list. See your librarian or English teacher for this information.

- Begin exploring financial aid for college. Start and maintain a savings account.
- Complete an *Individual Academic Career Plan*.
- Create a personal file or portfolio that contains copies of your report cards, certificates presented to you, lists of awards and honors you receive, and lists of all school and community clubs/organizations including all offices you hold for your resume'.
- Strive for academic excellence and regular school attendance, which will result in an exemplary academic record. Take the most challenging courses while also exploring possible career goals/interests.
- Attend classes to prepare you for the PSAT/NMSQT.
- Begin to research general information on colleges and universities you are considering.
- Explore financial aid and scholarship opportunities so that you will know far in advance of your senior year what is expected of you.
- Look for summer enrichment programs held on college campuses. Colleges look for students who use their summers to develop themselves academically and socially.
- Volunteer, Volunteer, Volunteer!!! Quality is more important than quantity. Choose something you like and stick with it!

