

What to expect during SOPHOMORE year – for students and parents

Sophomore students have successfully completed their first year and are ready for new challenges with their second. This is a list to help you prepare for what will probably be going on in your sophomore's life.

In the sophomore year, students begin to think about life after high school and careers they would like to pursue. They are eligible to do job shadows, attend career exploration events, tour college or vocational school campuses to help them narrow down what they like and don't like and get started on some of those hard life decisions.

August/September/October

- Check student transcript and schedule and make sure sophomores are on target to graduate with all required courses.
- Look over sports, academic and other extracurricular activities and make some choices about what to participate in.
 - **NOTE: Participating is great, but keep in mind you want to finish what you start and you also don't want to do more than you have time to do.**
 - **Remember, when you are part of a team, club or other activity, you have a responsibility to practice before and/or after school, show up to practices or events and work hard to make everyone better**
- Identify Community Service activities and keep track of them since you need to complete 20 hours before graduation. This includes working

in concession stands at school, taking stats at ballgames, volunteering at church and community functions and many other activities.

- Choose 3-4 careers identified in Xello to explore. Do all the lessons in your grade level to help you make some decisions.
- Explore careers and job opportunities post-high school - talk to the Academic Advisor about job shadows and get information about apprenticeships.
- If you don't have a personal resume, or much to put on it, create a talent bank for yourself that includes any achievements, volunteer work, extracurricular activities, athletic team participation (only if you complete the entire season), academics, informal work experience, leadership roles, skills.
- Apply for the HOBY Leadership trip - free trip and money!
- Plan to take the ACT in your junior year and prepare yourself by studying hard and learning everything you can.
 - **NOTE: All juniors will take the ACT in February through Fairfield for free.**

November/December

- Continue to study hard, learn as much as possible and make good grades to keep up your GPA.
- Attend **Career Expo** and ask questions of any businesses where you might have interest. Make contact with colleges or trade schools where there are programs for the career field of your choice.
- Continue to participate in any extracurricular activities you choose - don't quit! Keep going!
- Remember it takes everyone to make our sports and activities strong. Be an active member!
- Volunteer during the holidays to earn community service points.
- Study for finals! Good grades all the way!

January/February

- Start the 2nd semester off strong by studying and keeping up with all homework.
- Apply to attend HCTEA if you are interested.
- Take care of yourself, get plenty of rest, keep up with your homework.
- Participate in the PCC Academic Olympics, if possible.
- Make a list of possible colleges/ universities/ trade schools you would like to visit or learn more about.
- Make a list of 2-5 possible jobs you might like and talk to Academic Advisor about setting up Job Shadow opportunities.
- Do your best on the Kansas Assessments.

March/April/May

- Pre-enroll for junior year.
- Check to make sure you are on track toward graduation.
- Review your KITE scores to find your weaknesses so you can work toward improving yourself and identify what classes you may need to study harder.
- Choose a college/ university/ trade school/ military branch and learn about:
 - Majors
 - Job outlook
 - Costs
- Finish your school year strong - good grades all the way!
- Apply for summer jobs - especially with employers where you might like to pursue a career.

June/July

- Visit college campuses with your parents.
- Talk with your parents about your plans for the future and map out a strategy TOGETHER for your future.
- If you earn a certificate (Red Cross, CNA, etc.) over the summer, remember to report that to

the Academic Advisor so that information can be added to your transcript.

- Make a list of all the things you want to do during junior year and get prepared! You are halfway through high school already!

HCTEA (Vo-Tech)

- Students who wish to attend HCTEA during their junior and/or senior years:
 - Must apply to the School Board. The deadline is usually in January or February.
 - Must be on track to graduate - no failing classes. Also, no failing classes in the 2nd semester of sophomore year.
 - HCTEA is a part of Hutchinson High School and Hutchinson Community College. Students earn college credit while taking HCTEA courses - for FREE.
 - Students may earn certificates such as welding, CNA, automotive technology, CISCO.
 - Fairfield provides transportation to and from HCTEA any day school is in session at HCTEA.
 - HCTEA follows the USD 308 - Hutchinson Schools calendar. Some days will be different than USD 310 but students will still be responsible to attend any day school is in session at either school.
 - If a student needs to attend clinicals or other functions that do not fall within the regular school day hours, they will be responsible for their own transportation

Taking classes for college credit

If you choose to take an online college class during your junior or senior year, there are some hard truths you need to know. *The first truth is that not all colleges are the same and each requires something slightly different than the others.*

General Education Courses

- **General Education courses** are courses all college students take. These include English

Composition 1 and 2, College Algebra, General Psychology, Sociology and many others.

- If you know the school where you plan to attend, get an Advisor at the school who can tell you exactly which classes you need to take. Check with the Academic Advisor to help with this.
- If you choose to take an online class from any accredited college, YOU MUST PAY FOR IT.
- You must also PURCHASE A BOOK to go along with the class. These can be VERY expensive.
- If you start the class and decide you don't like it or that you are too busy, you need to **PAY ATTENTION TO THE DROP DATES.**
 - **Drop with a Refund** dates are usually within the 1st week of class. This means you can drop the class and the college will not charge you for the class.
 - **Drop beyond the Refund** dates occur after the first week of classes. This means if you choose to drop the class AFTER the REFUND date, you will STILL HAVE TO PAY FOR THE CLASS EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE NOT GOING TO TAKE IT. This can get expensive, so pay attention to the dates.
 - If you decide to drop but don't follow college procedures for dropping the class, you will have an F on your transcript. Forever. Not good.

Excel in CTE Courses

- **Excel in CTE courses** are approved technical courses offered by Kansas technical and community colleges.
- Excel in CTE courses are TUITION FREE to students.
- Students still may need to purchase a book.
- Students still may have to pay some fees to the technical or community college, depending on the institution.

High School Transcript

- **The grade you get for the college class goes on your high school transcript and affects your GPA!!!!**

What to Expect During the Sophomore Year



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