

Suggested Freshman Post-Secondary Planning Timeline

It is never too early to start planning for college, but focus on transitioning to high school, getting involved and finding mentors who can support you during your high school years.

- Build strong academic, language, mathematics and critical thinking skills by taking challenging coursework.
- Attend evening college exploration programs hosted by the School Counseling Office throughout the year.
- Set academic goals and then study hard to achieve those goals; **all high school grades are used in the college admission and scholarship process.**
- Visit Naviance Family Connection to start learning more about yourself as well as possible careers and colleges.
- Strengthen your vocabulary by increasing the amount and content of your reading.
- Get involved in your community! Think about school athletics and extracurricular activities, community service and work. Try to stay with those activities and move into leadership roles within these activities.
- Build relationships with teachers and other staff at your school.
- Meet with your high school counselor to discuss goals and plans for the next four years.
- Browse through college view books and college planning guides in the College Resource Room in the School Counseling Office.
- Seek help academically or emotionally when you need it.
- Explore what high school courses colleges require and plan accordingly.
- Start thinking about additional opportunities available to you throughout high school like Career Center, College Credit Plus, Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB).
- Research career possibilities and consider shadowing someone in that career.
- Know high school and NCAA athletic eligibility requirements. For high school, see your counselor or athletic director. For college, visit www.ncaa.org.
- Organize a family plan to explore paying for college.
- Keep copies of your best academic work and start building a resume.