

# 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Planning

- Meet with your School Counselor to make sure you are taking the classes you need to graduate from high school and get into the college/technical school program you may be considering.
- WORK HARD to pass all classes. Your high school transcript and GPA start NOW, and how you perform these first couple years of high school will affect what is available to you in your post-secondary planning.
- Start thinking about where you would like to go to college. Consider what you'd like to study and where you want to live.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities both in and out of school, and stay with them. Take on leadership roles whenever possible and get involved in community service or other volunteer activities.
  - These will all help you build the best possible resume. Remember, what you do these first two years of high school, will affect your opportunities as a senior.
  - If you're interested in playing sports in college, research the National College Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility requirements, as they require completion of certain core courses to participate in Division I and II sports.
    - See your School Counselor to discuss an NCAA credit check
- Start building your resume, be sure to keep track of all the activities you are involved in, all volunteer work, all leadership positions held and all awards and recognition you have received.
- Work hard and challenge yourself! Take the most difficult classes that you can handle and do well in them. This will help prepare you for the rigor of post-secondary education and also show those schools and scholarship committees that you are willing to challenge yourself and work hard.
  - Know your limits and what you are capable of and don't spread yourself too thin.
- The ACT and SAT are the two types of college entrance exams, in order to be admitted into a 4-year college/university, you must complete one of these exams, which will typically be done starting second semester of junior year.
- Consider taking the PreACT second semester of your sophomore year. This is a practice ACT exam that will give you a predicted ACT score and show you where you are as far as college readiness for Math, English, Reading and Science. Cost for the exam is roughly \$12.
- SAVE!! If you're already saving money for college, keep saving, and if you aren't, then start saving. The more money you save now the less you will have to borrow later.
- Make summer count! Summer is a time for fun, but you can also use it to your advantage. Build up your college savings account with a part time job and your resume with volunteer work.