



# 10<sup>TH</sup>-GRADE COLLEGE ROADMAP

## NOVEMBER

### Becoming a Well-Rounded Student

- ✦ Join a community service project and use the opportunity to explore possible careers (and make new friends).
- ✦ Add your experience to your resume.
- ✦ Find opportunities where you can learn to work in teams to achieve a goal.
- ✦ Choose peers who have similar aspirations and work together to achieve college goals.

## OCTOBER

### Building a College Foundation

- ✦ Understand the terms associated with college admissions.
- ✦ Learn about various postsecondary options—community colleges, universities and technical schools—and the entrance requirements for each.
- ✦ Visit with your counselor to start your admission process for dual-credit courses next year.

## SEPTEMBER

### Planning Your Future

- ✦ Evaluate your interests and the courses you enjoy, and learn how those might lead to careers.
- ✦ Research different pathways to earning a postsecondary degree.
- ✦ Investigate colleges that interest you. Rank them and add them to your portfolio.
- ✦ Start participating in different college tours, if possible.

## AUGUST

### Learning About Yourself

- ✦ Take a learning-styles inventory to see how you learn best, and work to improve your weaknesses.
- ✦ Start (or update) your resume using information in your portfolio. Talk with friends and family about careers that interest you.
- ✦ Review sample college essay questions, then draft an essay about yourself.

## DECEMBER

### Maximizing Your Break

- ✦ Talk to older friends or siblings who are already in college about their postsecondary choices, experiences, and life as a college student.
- ✦ Participate in a school or community service project over the holidays.
- ✦ Study college websites and take virtual tours—add info to your portfolio.
- ✦ Find a part-time job so you can start saving for college.

## FEBRUARY

### Taking Ownership of Your Future

- ✦ Develop a set of study habits, behaviors, and attitudes that show you're serious about your future.
- ✦ Put your best foot forward and clean up your online image.
- ✦ Ask for help in deciding which advanced courses you should take next year.

## MARCH

### Understanding Academics & Course Planning

- ✦ Study career clusters to see what courses are offered for certain careers.
- ✦ Check your class rank, GPA (grade point average), and attendance records.
- ✦ Register for advanced and/or dual-credit courses.

## SUMMER

### Focusing on Fall

- ✦ Update the goals you set for yourself.
- ✦ Attend summer activities/classes offered at school or colleges.
- ✦ Volunteer for a local community project—practice using your leadership, academic, and social skills.
- ✦ Work on budgeting your money.
- ✦ Visit or research postsecondary institutions that interest you.

## JANUARY

### Learning About Finances

- ✦ Get familiar with college financial aid terms.
- ✦ Begin managing your personal finances and understanding banking (checking, savings, and ATM/debit cards).
- ✦ Learn about financial literacy and smart money ideas—like planning ahead, budgeting, needs vs. wants, wise consumerism, and savings plans.
- ✦ Use the FAFSA 4Caster to investigate the costs of various postsecondary institutions.
- ✦ Know the differences between various types of financial aid.



## MAY

### Looking Ahead

- ✦ Update your college portfolio with information collected this year.
- ✦ Register for summer programs at school or local colleges and take advanced courses, if offered.
- ✦ Evaluate your academic, social, and behavioral performance this year. What changes will you make?
- ✦ Find a community project that needs volunteers or get a summer job and save your money.
- ✦ Set your goals for summer.



## APRIL

### Investigating Required Tests

- ✦ Learn about passing standards and strive to do your best on benchmark and STAAR end-of-course tests.
- ✦ Find out about pre-college admissions tests and study guides or classes offered for PSAT/NMSQT, PLAN and EXPLORE.
- ✦ Take advantage of mentors, tutors, and extra study sessions.
- ✦ Learn about AP/IB exams now so you can plan ahead.



START