

TH-GRADE COLLEGE

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.

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.

FEBRUARY

Taking Ownership

of Your Future

Develop a set of study habits,

behaviors, and attitudes that

→ Put your best foot forward and

clean up your online image.

→ Ask for help in deciding which

advanced courses you should

show you're serious about your

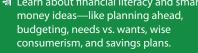
★ Find a part-time job so you can start saving for

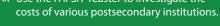
SUMMER -Focusing on Fall

- 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.
- → 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
- ★ Use the FAFSA 4Caster to investigate the
- types of financial aid.









→ Know the differences between various



Looking Ahead

MAY

- → 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.



take next year.

future

MARCH

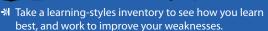
Understanding Academics

& 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.







- → 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.



APRIL

Investigating Required 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.



