



9TH-GRADE COLLEGE ROADMAP

NOVEMBER

Becoming a Well-Rounded Student

- ✦ Join a community service project and use the chance 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.
- ✦ Select someone you would like to have as a mentor, and ask them!

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.
- ✦ See your counselor to find out the steps you need to take to be admitted to dual credit for 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 to your portfolio.
- ✦ Start participating in different college tours.

DECEMBER

Maximizing Your Break

- ✦ Talk to older friends or siblings who are already in college about their postsecondary choices and experiences.
- ✦ Participate in a school or community service project over the holidays.
- ✦ Study college websites and take virtual tours—add info to your portfolio.
- ✦ Use the break to get organized and evaluate your college pathway.

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 to take next year.

MARCH

Understanding Academics & Course Planning

- ✦ Get advice from your counselor about creating a four-year plan for graduation.
- ✦ Study career clusters to see what courses are offered for certain careers.
- ✦ Check your class rank, GPA (grade point average), and attendance records.

AUGUST

Learning About Yourself

- ✦ Take a learning-styles inventory to see how you learn best, and work to improve your weaknesses.
- ✦ Start a resume using information in your portfolio.
- ✦ Review sample college essay questions, then draft an essay about yourself.

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.
- ✦ Find out about managing personal finances—especially planning ahead and budgeting.
- ✦ Use the FAFSA 4Caster to investigate the costs of various postsecondary institutions.
- ✦ Know the differences between various types of financial aid.
- ✦ Research scholarships and study the qualifications needed.

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