

FOR STUDENTS 9TH GRADE CHECKLIST



ACHIEVE

Do well in school.

- Set goals for the year.
- Go to all of your classes.
- Discover how you learn best.
- Learn how to make outlines & do research.
- Ask for help and use online resources.
- Turn in all assignments.
- Read—it makes you smarter!

Take the right classes.

- Challenge yourself with honors or advanced classes.
- Explore ways to earn college credit while you're still in high school.
- Plan to take math all 4 years in HS.
- Take a foreign/world language if offered.

Get organized.

- Use a planner or calendar.
- Keep papers organized in a binder.
- Determine the place that you study best.
- Practice good study habits.
- Create a file of important documents.

ENGAGE

Get involved.

- Try something new; get involved in school and community activities.
- Volunteer in your community.
- Make a plan for summer.

Spend time with good people.

- Choose to hang out with friends that share positive goals and interests.
- Find a mentor – a parent, teacher, counselor, coach, other trusted adult, or older student that you can talk to.

Make good choices.

- Be safe online and on your phone.
- Avoid risky behaviors like drinking, doing drugs and having sex.
- Be kind; treat others with respect.

EXPLORE

Explore colleges and careers.

- Continue exploring different occupations that match your interests.
- Talk about your future dreams and plans with your family, friends and other adults and set goals.
- Ask others about their careers and the education/training necessary.
- Think about what is most important to you in a college.
- Make a list of different colleges that interest you.
- Visit a college campus on a field trip with your school or your family.
- Explore colleges online.

Learn about paying for college.

- You can afford college. Learn about financial aid and attend workshops with your family.
- Set up and regularly contribute to a college savings account.
- Look into matched savings accounts that provide extra money for college.
- Search and apply for scholarships.

