

College Planning Guide by Grade Level



Grade 9

- Make sure you know which high school courses are required for graduation and colleges.
- Become familiar with the levels of courses offered in high school.
- Think about your interests and start looking into different job opportunities related to your interests. Talk to people in the community who work in those fields to learn more about their jobs and the training they needed to do their job.
- Get involved in a variety of activities in your school.
- Make sure you are completing volunteer work for community service hours. Log community service hours in Naviance.
- Start organizing your high school activities, awards, community service, etc. by grade level in a file, you will need this for college applications
- Work hard in school, maintain your grades!
- Read A LOT: different types of genres but especially informational texts to prep for the PSAT/SAT/ACT.
- Become familiar with the PSAT, you will take it in 10th grade!
- During the summer: Volunteer, get a job, attend an academic/professional education program.
- If you are interested in playing sports in college, research the NCAA eligibility requirements.

Grade 10

- Meet with your high school guidance counselor to review your schedule to make sure you are on track with graduation requirements, community service hours and courses that will support your college applications.
- Take the PSAT. For more information about the PSAT and practice tests, visit the following website: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice>
- The PSAT/NMSQT is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. Visit the following website for more information about <https://www.nationalmerit.org/>
- If you are interested in attending a U.S. Military Academy you should request a precandidate questionnaire.
- With the support of your family, start doing some research on financial aid and how to fund your college education. For more information click here: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>
- Participate in school activities, volunteer in the community and maintain your grades. Continue to add information to your 10th grade file about school activities, community service activities and awards.
- Use Naviance and/or the College Board websites to start researching colleges based on your interests, GPA, location, college size, etc. This will help you learn about admissions requirements.
- Start Touring College Campuses. If you are traveling with your family and there is a college along the way, stop and take a tour, it doesn't have to be a college you are interested in attending, but it will help you learn what to look for in a college.
- During the summer: Volunteer, get a job, attend an academic/professional education program to develop your resume. Also, study for the SAT/ACT.

