

FRESHMEN

Now that you're a freshman, it's time to get serious about your post-secondary plans. By starting early, you'll be better prepared!

- Don't neglect your study habits. Keep up the good work and continue to improve your study skills; these will pay off over the next four years.
- Start a calendar with important dates and deadlines.
- Find out about and get involved in extracurricular activities.
- If you don't have one, sign up for a college savings account. If you already have one, be sure to add to your savings regularly!
- Talk to school counselors, college advisors, teachers, family members or trusted adults about your plans for college.
- Use your Plan of Study to keep track of your courses and grades. Stay focused! Take the most challenging classes you can handle.
- Find out about AP and other honors level courses.
- Find out about the college entrance requirements for the schools' you're interested in. By doing this you have a better idea about the grades you need to maintain and the classes you should be taking.
- Create a file of report cards, lists of awards and honors, school and community activities, and volunteer work. This will be very important when you start to fill out college applications.
- Spend your summer wisely. Volunteer or participate in education programs. Part-time jobs are also beneficial during this time.
- Try taking some small steps towards independence this year, perhaps with more responsibility around your house.

Check this out:

Be sure to check out the career search at:
StudentAid.gov/careersearch to research endless career options.

Don't Forget:

Community involvement looks great on college applications! Ask your counselor about ways that you can be more involved.

One last thing:

Your freshman year is an important time in high school, so be sure to study hard, put your best foot forward, and have some fun!

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START NOW

Now is the time to get serious about your post-secondary plans! By starting early, you'll be better prepared for the many college and career decisions that will arise during high school.

Here are a few websites that may help you to begin your college and career search:

- <https://www.cfnc.org>
- <https://www.onetonline.org>
- <http://www.mynextmove.org>
- <http://www.careeronestop.org>

THE IMPORTANCE OF GPA

A grade point average (GPA) is the calculated average of the letter grades you earn in school. Throughout high school you will maintain a cumulative GPA, which is an ongoing average of all grades earned beginning with your freshman year. Your GPA is important to your future because:

- It determines whether or not you're eligible to take college classes during your junior and senior years of high school.
- Prospective colleges will consider GPA and class rank when admitting students.
- Your GPA is a major consideration for both academic and athletic college scholarships as well as financial aid.

Starting your freshman year off with good grades allows you the opportunity to improve your GPA during each year of high school.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

When planning for your future, whether that includes college, a career, or military service, community involvement can go far. When colleges and employers see that you have actively been involved in an activity in addition to your daily classes, it lets them know that you have ability to take on multiple adventures, making you a well-rounded student. To read more information about the importance of community involvement please visit:

<https://www.cfnc.org/plan-your-future/>

STUDY TIPS

Want to be successful during your time in high school? If so, use the following study techniques to ensure results you can be proud of.

- Take breaks
- Actively study
- Manage your time
- Know what you need to study
- Choose your study environment wisely

For more specific information about study techniques and how they can be helpful to you, please visit: www.cfnc.org and enter "study techniques" in the search box.



SAVING FOR COLLEGE

Have you considered how you will pay for your college education? There are a few different ways to pay for college, these include savings, scholarships, grants, loans, or other forms of financial aid. Remember, it is wise to plan ahead!

Here are a few websites that may help you begin the planning process for paying for college:

- <https://fafsa.ed.gov>
- <https://www.cfnc.org/pay/pay.jsp>
- <http://www.cfnc.org/save/save.jsp>
- <https://nshscounseling.weebly.com/>