



7TH-GRADE COLLEGE ROADMAP

NOVEMBER

Becoming a Well-Rounded Student

- ✎ Join a community service project and use the opportunity to explore possible careers, build your resume and make new friends.
- ✎ Find ways to show (and grow) your leadership skills.

DECEMBER

Maximizing Your Break

- ✎ Talk to older friends or siblings who are already in college about their experiences.
- ✎ Talk to family members, relatives and trusted adults about their career paths.
- ✎ Participate in a school or community service project over the holidays.
- ✎ Study college websites and take virtual tours—add info to your portfolio.

SUMMER

Focusing on Fall

- ✎ Attend summer activities offered at your school or a college.
- ✎ Volunteer for a local community project.
- ✎ Learn to budget your money.
- ✎ Attend 8th-grade orientation.

OCTOBER

Building a College Foundation

- ✎ Develop plans for long-term projects that let you practice your research, time-management and communication skills.
- ✎ Learn about advanced courses that prepare you for high school and college.
- ✎ Take courses that help you learn Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills.

JANUARY

Learning About Finances

- ✎ Learn the basics about financial aid for college.
- ✎ Work with your parents to learn about financial literacy and how this can help with future plans (saving, planning, needs vs. wants).
- ✎ Attend college and career fairs.

FEBRUARY

Taking Ownership of Your Future

- ✎ Start researching information that may help you transition from middle to high school.
- ✎ Inquire about ways to earn high school credit beginning in 8th grade.
- ✎ Take stock of your attitudes and behaviors. Are you making good decisions about your future?

MAY

Coping With Change

- ✎ Update your college portfolio with information collected this year.
- ✎ Register for summer programs at school or local colleges.
- ✎ Take advanced courses in the summer (if offered).
- ✎ Locate a community project that needs volunteers.

SEPTEMBER

Planning Your Future

- ✎ Start creating your college portfolio.
- ✎ Tell your parents that you want to go to college and talk about your plans together.
- ✎ Set goals and make plans for this year and beyond.

MARCH

Understanding Academics & Course Planning

- ✎ Take advantage of opportunities to learn about high school and college credits.
- ✎ Develop a six-year graduation plan, if possible.
- ✎ Decide to make every year count when it comes to class rank, GPA (grade point average) and course selections.
- ✎ Plan your electives carefully.

AUGUST

Learning About Yourself

- ✎ Take an interest inventory.
- ✎ Write an essay about your plans after high school.
- ✎ Talk with friends and family about your career interests.
- ✎ List the clubs, organizations and service projects you might like to join.

APRIL

Investigating Required Tests

- ✎ Strive to do your best on benchmark and STAAR tests.
- ✎ Find out what is offered now that can help with college admissions tests later.
- ✎ Take advantage of mentors, tutors and extra study sessions.

START