



8TH-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 freshman orientation.
- ✦ Tour the high school campus and find your classrooms.
- ✦ Update your personal goals.
- ✦ Attend summer activities offered at your school or a college.
- ✦ Volunteer for a local community project.
- ✦ Get a part-time job and learn to budget your money.

OCTOBER

Building a College Foundation

- ✦ Develop plans for long-term projects that let you practice your research, time-management and communication skills.
- ✦ See your counselor and ask about advanced courses you can take in 9th grade.
- ✦ 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

- ✦ Seek out information to help your transition from middle to high school.
- ✦ 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

- ✦ Update your college portfolio.
- ✦ Talk with your parents about careers that interest you and make a plan together.
- ✦ Set goals and make plans for this year and beyond.
- ✦ Inventory your schedule. Ask teachers if any of your courses would be considered "advanced courses."

MARCH

Understanding Academics & Course Planning

- ✦ Take advantage of opportunities to learn about high school and college credits.
- ✦ Develop a four-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 a learning-styles inventory to see how you learn best, and work to improve your weaknesses.
- ✦ Write an essay about your plans for the year.
- ✦ Talk with friends and family about careers that interest you.
- ✦ Add details to your portfolio about the clubs, organizations and service projects you participated in over the summer.

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