

FRESHMAN CHECKLIST

- ❑ **Take the right courses.**
Talk to your counselor or adviser to make sure you are taking the right courses for your desired college plan.
- ❑ **Challenge yourself.**
Colleges look at the rigor of your courses in addition to your grades so sign up for tough classes. More rigorous courses will also better prepare you for the SAT/ACT and college coursework.
- ❑ **Get off to a strong start.**
All your freshman courses and grades will be on your transcript that you send to colleges, so do your best to get off to a good start academically.
- ❑ **Explore career options.**
Continue thinking about your interests and what career fields might match up with them. What kind of postsecondary education or training is required? How many years of training or college will you need?
- ❑ **Research colleges.**
Look for information about colleges that fit with your career interests. Check out college websites and visit your campus College and Career Center. Your post-secondary options include two-year schools, technical schools, certificate programs, and universities. Consider all your options and make the choice that is right for you.
- ❑ **Create a college admissions plan.**
Talk to your parents, counselors, teachers and advisers about creating a college admissions plan and set goals for yourself every semester throughout high school.
- ❑ **Get involved.**
Participate in activities in which you're interested whether it's sports, clubs, community service, church, etc... Colleges look for well-rounded students so it is important to show you are involved in activities outside of the classroom.
- ❑ **Start a brag sheet.**
Include a list of your activities, community service projects, accomplishments and awards so you can refer to it when you fill out college applications.
- ❑ **Consider taking the PSAT.**
Talk with your counselor about registering to take the PSAT for practice.
- ❑ **Sign up for summer programs.**
Apply to participate in summer enrichment programs, camps, internships and/or youth leadership programs. You'll meet new people who might be able to help prepare you for college.
- ❑ **Start a college savings account**