



Freshman Checklist

- ☐ Start thinking about college options and the different types of colleges.
- ☐ Meet with your counselor to discuss courses, colleges and majors.
- ☐ Work on developing strong organizational and study skills.
- ☐ Look into extracurricular activities at your school and elsewhere.
- ☐ Consider sports, clubs, school government, newspaper, etc. Get involved.
- ☐ Get to know your teachers.
- ☐ Look at the websites of some of your "dream colleges". See what they require.
- ☐ Register on these college websites to get on their mailing lists
- ☐ Read more than the minimum high school required reading.
- ☐ Read newspapers, magazines and other material of interest.
- ☐ Work on improving your vocabulary – reading, flashcards or any way you like.
- ☐ Make a list of goals and refer to it often. Revise as needed.
- ☐ Familiarize yourself with internet resources, such as scholarship searches.
- ☐ Consider volunteer work or some type of community service.
- ☐ Start to keep a file/log of any awards, certificates, news articles, etc. that might be relevant for your college applications.
- ☐ Get a social security number if you don't already have one.
- ☐ Plan an interesting summer that might help you solidify your interest areas.
- ☐ Talk to people about careers; ask questions.
- ☐ Discuss your interests and abilities, strengths and weaknesses with those who know you best.
- ☐ Keep your grades up. Freshman year DOES count.
- ☐ With activities, quality counts more than quantity. Start to think about picking your favorite few and trying for a leadership position next year.
- ☐ Plan a challenging sophomore curriculum. Take the most difficult classes you can handle.
- ☐ Study hard for freshman finals.
- ☐ Begin a rough draft of your resume.
- ☐ Enjoy a productive summer!



FRESHMAN CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Begin and continue a thorough self-examination of your abilities and interests.- Study hard and get good grades. Set your academic goals now.- Think about careers.- Try a sport, club or other activity. (the more unique the better – but something you enjoy)- Begin your resume- READ!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Plan and become involved in extracurricular activities, clubs, etc.- Position yourself for leadership in at least one area.- Keep up your grades. Be sure teachers know you care.- READ as much as you can. This has a huge effect on your vocabulary, hence your standardized test results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Investigate the kinds of education available: two-year colleges, four-year colleges, universities, professional schools and more.- What are your college-related goals? Are you interested in the top tier, most selective schools?- Talk to your counselor about your ideas and ask questions. Get to know them as well as your teachers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- If not already done, start a checklist of personal preferences in selecting colleges: selectivity, size, location, etc.- Start your list of 10-12 target schools (It will likely change several times.)- READ over break!- Fill your spare time with community service, volunteer work and activities. (This will all go on your college apps.)
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Think about college visits.- Keep up your grades. Freshman year DOES count!- READ!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Visit nearby campuses if you are interested in local schools.- Keep up your grades. Do extra credit whenever possible. Strive for A's and B's in all classes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Put forth your best effort! (improvement counts)- Plan a challenging schedule for next year. (such as AP classes) Colleges look for indications that each student has tried to take the strongest possible course of study.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Plan a productive summer – community service, volunteer work, extra classes, sports camp, summer school, unusual experience, job, etc.- Talk to your counselor about what might help your resume.
MAY	JUNE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Study hard for final exams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Have a fun and productive summer!		