

## Freshman and Sophomore Year To-Do's

- If you have not set up a Parchment, College Board, and/or ACT account, do that immediately. **DO NOT USE YOUR SMA EMAIL ADDRESS; USE/CREATE A PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS.**
- Make a list of your goals for each year of your high school career and keep this list in a place where you can always see it.
- Develop good time-management skills. Staying organized will help you in a variety of ways and will help reduce your stress level. Also, see teachers during advisory or Bear Time as soon as struggles arise in your classes. Grades earned during your freshman and sophomore years count toward your GPA (Grade Point Average).
- Continue to keep your grades up. Colleges/universities will look at your six-semester (transcript after junior year), seven-semester (transcript after the fall semester of senior year) AND your final eight-semester transcript after graduation. You will send your final transcript to the college you have chosen to attend (not all the ones to which you applied).
- Most colleges look at the applicant's high school career as a whole--grades, challenging courses (honors, AP, dual credit), extracurricular activities, community service, and test scores (ACT/SAT) make up the "whole student." Take challenging courses in those areas you are strong in; loading up your schedule with challenging courses that you are not strong in will more than likely weaken the grades in all of your classes that you take that year.
- Continue to be active in school with community service, extracurricular activities, and leadership roles. Don't join a bunch of clubs that don't matter to you; join the ones that you are really interested in and take on leadership roles in those clubs. Explore your interests with clubs/organizations offered at school, church, and your community.
- Keep a Google Doc that lists all your activities, awards, community service hours, clubs, leadership roles, etc. Add to it at least every month or two so you don't forget what you have done. This will come in VERY handy when you are a senior filling out college and scholarship applications.
- Meet with Mrs. Nash to make sure your transcript has all the correct information on it and that you are on the path to have all your required courses for graduation.

- **Be very careful about what you post on your social media pages, the email address you choose, and/or the graphic you choose to represent you. Colleges/universities look at these to see what kind of pictures you post, what comments you make, what things you share, etc. You want to present your best self.**
- **Start thinking about where you want to be after high school. Do you want to stay in the area? Do you want to live in a different state? Do you want to go to a large college or small one? Do you want to work a year and then go to college or trade school, go straight into college or the military?**
- **Start thinking about what you want to do after high school. Do you want to go to a four-year or two-year college? Do you want to go into the military? Do you want to learn a trade like electrician, plumber, landscaper, construction, auto mechanic, or diesel mechanic?**
- **Research careers you may be interested in to see what the educational requirements are for that career.**
- **Think about getting a summer job or volunteering at a place that supports your career ideas.**
- **ALWAYS ask for help or advice from an adult you trust; we are here to help you in any way we can.**

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