

# Ninth grade High School Timeline

Use this timeline to help make sure you're accomplishing everything you need.

- \* Get off to a good start with your grades. The grades you earn in ninth grade will be included in your final high school GPA and class rank.
- \* As soon as you can, meet with your counselor to begin talking about colleges and careers.
- \* College might seem a long way off now, but grades really do count toward college admission and scholarships.
- \* Continue exploring your interests and possible careers with Bridges.com online. See your counselor for a password.
- \* Get involved in extracurricular activities (both school and non-school-sponsored). These help you enjoy school, develop interests and add to your accomplishments.
- \* Talk to your parents about planning for college expenses. Continue or begin a savings plan for college. Visit our website for more scholarship and financial aid information.
- \* Look at the college information available in your counselor's office and school and public libraries. Use the Internet to check out college Web sites.
- \* Tour a nearby college, if possible. Visit relatives or friends who live on or near a college campus. Check out the dorms, go to the library or student center, and get a feel for college life. Most colleges offer a college preview day in the fall.
- \* Investigate summer enrichment programs through work, community or college.

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## Fall

- \* Take the PLAN (Pre-ACT) assessment October 17. This assessment helps determine your study habits and academic progress and interests. This test will prepare you for the ACT Assessment next year.
- \* Become familiar with general college entrance requirements.

## Winter

- \* Discuss your PLAN score with your counselor.
- \* The people who read college applications aren't looking just for grades. Get involved in activities outside the classroom. Work toward leadership positions in the activities that you like best. Become involved in community service and other volunteer activities.
- \* Continue to develop a strong academic foundation.
- \* Work on your writing skills—you'll need them no matter what you do.
- \* Find a teacher or another adult who will advise and encourage you in your college or career plans.

## Spring

- \* Keep your grades up and check your GPA and class rank  
Each semester.
- \* Ask your counselor about taking college classes while in high school.
- \* Continue to explore interests and careers that you think you might like.
- \* Begin zeroing in on the type of college you would prefer (two-year or four-year, small or large, rural or urban).
- \* If you are interested in attending a military academy, such as West Point or Annapolis, now is the time to start planning and getting information.
- \* Write to colleges and ask for their academic requirements for admission.
- \* Visit college campuses. Read all of the mail you receive from colleges. You may see something you like.
- \* Talk to your parents about planning for college expenses. Continue or begin a savings plan for college. Visit our website for more scholarship and financial aid information.