



COLLEGE READINESS

In order for your child to be on track in terms of college readiness, we suggest that he or she prepare in the following manner:

8th Grade Year:

- Begin researching the SAT/ACT and other college entrance examination options
- Take the PSAT.
- Begin planning the classes you wish to take in high school.

9th Grade Year:

- Purchase SAT/ACT and other college entrance examination prep books
- Begin building your resume, including volunteer hours.
- Take the PSAT.

10th Grade Year:

- Sign up for test prep courses in weak subject areas.
- Research post-graduate options (vocational/technical schools, colleges/universities)
- Take the PSAT.
- Take the PERT for Dual Enrollment if wanting that option.

11th Grade Year:

- Take the PERT for Dual Enrollment if wanting that option.
- Take the SAT/ACT in the fall.
- Take The SAT/ACT again in the spring.
- Create a list of options for Schools.
- Schedule college campus tours.
- Make sure you are on track with credit requirements for graduation.
- Look into scholarship & financial aid options. (Bright Futures)
- Request Letters of Recommendation.

12th Grade Year:

- Take the SAT/ACT again in summer/fall if needed.
- Summer before 12th grade starts, write your essay.
- Apply to schools before their fall deadlines.
- Submit to FAFSA for financial aid & grants before fall deadline (12/15). **(Required)** It is encouraged to apply early (opens 10/1) **www.fafsa.ed.gov**
- Apply for additional scholarships. *Bright Futures* (Fall)
- Finalize your resume and volunteer hours.
- Submit your acceptances/regrets well before individual deadlines.

Other Guidelines to consider

- College Recommendation Letters- Students need to email teachers to request these with a time frame to be completed. Students should have a couple of teacher recommendation letters & 1 from an organization for whom they have volunteered with.
- Dual Enrollment is an option with a few local colleges. Student will need to take the PERT test before enrolling and it is offered a couple times a year. *3.0 GPA required*
- Volunteer Hours- A letter on letterhead is required from the organization stating the number of hours worked & student name. This letter must be given to the office to keep in student's file.
- Community Service is strongly encouraged and 25 volunteer hours each year are needed for high school graduation. For *Bright Futures scholarship*, you need 75 hours completed.
- Open a Parchment account to request transcripts.
- Colleges look for the following:
 - Grade point average
 - College entrance exams
 - Strength of classes
 - Extra-Curricular Activities, Leadership, Service
 - Writing Skills
- Take both the SAT & ACT. Practice books will help break down how many questions for each section. Khan Academy (app & online) has a Free prep for SAT.
- High School Graduation Requirements (total of 24 credits):
 - 4 English
 - 4 Math
 - 3 Social Science/History
 - 3 Science
 - 2 Foreign Language (same language)
 - 1 Fine Arts
 - 1 HOPE/Fitness
 - 6 additional Core classes or Elective classes
- College Entrance Requirements for Classes/Credits (total of 16):
 - 4 English
 - 4 Math
 - 3 Social Science/History
 - 3 Science
 - 2 Foreign Language (same language)
- **Colleges only use core courses for GPA**; Electives are not included. **For *Bright Futures*, you must have a 3.0 with core classes only and you must take Algebra 2 (in addition to Algebra 1 & Geometry)**
- Competitive Universities expect a minimum of 22 *core* credits.