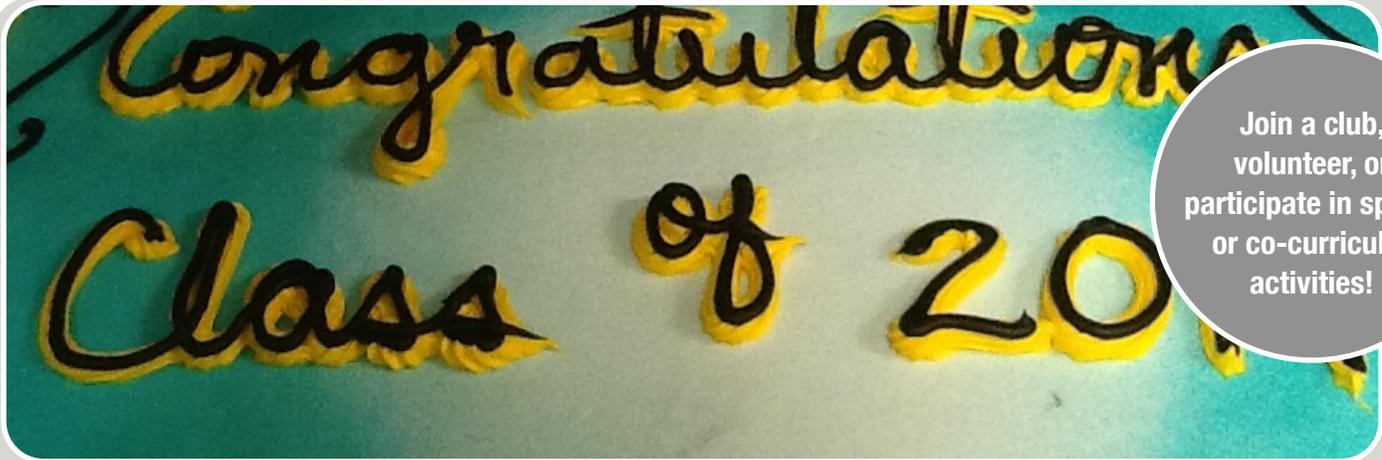


PREPARING FOR POST-SECONDARY SUCCESS STARTS NOW!

C/O 2018

**If there is one paper
you keep on the
fridge for 4 years, it
should be this one!**



Join a club,
volunteer, or
participate in sports
or co-curricular
activities!

PLANNING FOR A SUCCESSFUL 9TH GRADE YEAR!

Use this checklist to assist you in each year of High School!

- Find out how to make the most of high school!
- Register for challenging high school courses!
- Find out why you should go to college or vocational school!
- Become familiar with college entrance requirements! Google your favorite colleges and check out the requirements NOW!
- Start thinking about reasons for attending college!
- Join/continue extracurricular activities!
- Attend summer camp at a college to experience a college-like atmosphere!
- Research college/post-secondary costs!
- Continue/start saving for college or post-secondary school!
- Meet with your Career Specialist at least once per year!
- Explore careers on the Internet by visiting ACT's free interactive "World-of-Work" map @ <http://www.act.org/world/world.html>



**Academies are a great way to focus on
career objectives!**

There are numerous academy opportunities throughout the district, make sure you check out school choice options if one is attractive to you!



**Co-Curricular Activities are Great for a
College Resume!**

Take classes in Band, Drama, Art, Computers, Finance, Robotics, and Aviation!



SOPHOMORE YEAR

- ✓ Continue to take & plan challenging high school courses!
- ✓ Continue to meet with your Career Specialist/Guidance Counselor!
- ✓ Investigate the kind of education/training different careers require!
- ✓ Take the PLAN test!
- ✓ Review the PLAN results with your Guidance Counselor & parents, begin to get tutoring in weak areas!
- ✓ Start collecting college/post-secondary information!
- ✓ Check out ACT's free college search @ <http://www.act.org/collegesearch/index.php#>
- ✓ Visit colleges and talk with college students!
- ✓ Be ready with a list of questions to ask on your campus visit <http://www.actstudent.org/college/visit.html>
- ✓ Use the "list of college characteristics" @ <http://www.actstudent.org/college/factors.html> to decide how to evaluate different colleges!
- ✓ Begin to compare the colleges/post-secondary schools in which you are interested!
- ✓ Continue/start saving for college!
- ✓ Consider your reasons for going to college/post-secondary school and how they relate to your career interests!
- ✓ Join/continue extracurricular activities!

JUNIOR YEAR

- ✓ Continue to take & plan challenging high school courses!
- ✓ Continue to meet with your Career Specialist/Guidance Counselor!
- ✓ Keep your grades up!
- ✓ Join an academic club!
- ✓ Take the PSAT test!
- ✓ Register for the ACT and the SAT and take a prep class to prepare!
- ✓ Sign up for the ASVAB to gauge career interests!
- ✓ Continue to visit colleges and talk with college students!
- ✓ Start or update an academic resume!
- ✓ Consider putting together a portfolio that highlights your special skills & talents!
- ✓ Investigate scholarship opportunities on the Guidance page of your school website!
- ✓ Check into applying to colleges/post-secondary schools online!
- ✓ Volunteer for activities & clubs related to career interests!
- ✓ Get a part-time job, apprenticeship, or job shadow in a profession that interests you!

SENIOR YEAR

- ✓ Continue to take & plan challenging high school courses!
- ✓ Keep your grades up; second semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility!
- ✓ Sign up for the SAT & ACT (if you didn't take them as a junior, or aren't satisfied with your score)!
- ✓ Visit with your Guidance Counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fully understand college/post-secondary admission requirements!
- ✓ Consider taking courses at a local university or community college (try an on-campus dual enrollment course)!
- ✓ Ask for personal references from teachers, school counselors, or employers early in the year or at least 2 weeks before application deadlines!
- ✓ Visit with admissions counselors who come to your high school!
- ✓ Attend a college/post-secondary school fair!
- ✓ Begin your college/post-secondary school essays!
- ✓ Apply for admission at the college/post-secondary school you've chosen!
- ✓ Avoid common college application mistakes, see a list @ <http://www.actstudent.org/college/mistakes.html>
- ✓ Find out if you qualify for scholarships at each college/post-secondary school to which you have applied!
- ✓ See your Guidance Counselor/Career Specialist for help finding financial aid/scholarships!
- ✓ Get help completing the FAFSA!
- ✓ Get transcripts sent after 1st semester to colleges/post-secondary schools; get your final transcripts sent in June!
- ✓ Visit colleges/post-secondary schools that have invited you to enroll!
- ✓ Decide which college/post-secondary school to attend & notify the school of your decision!
- ✓ Keep track of and observe deadlines for sending in all required paperwork, fees, and financial aid!
- ✓ Keep looking for scholarship opportunities!
- ✓ Watch the mail for your Student Aid Report (SAR) - it will arrive 4 weeks after the FAFSA is filed!
- ✓ Compare financial aid packages from different schools!
- ✓ Sign & send in a promissory note if you are borrowing money!
- ✓ Notify your college about any outside scholarships you received!

Keep your
GPA up by
making good
grades!

VOLUNTEER!



COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

In order to be eligible for Bright Futures monies, you must earn a minimum of 100 volunteer hours during your High School career!

You can begin earning these hours during the summer before your 9th grade year!