

## College planning timeline: Grades 9 and 10

### FALL

- Take strong, college-prep classes. If you are capable of taking Honors classes, take them. If your grades aren't where you want them to be, it's never too late to improve your grades. Colleges look for an upward trend. Your GPA and taking challenging classes are important for not only college admission but scholarships.
- Involvement in activities is very important to colleges. Concentrate on your special talents, abilities and interests. Colleges look for consistency and depth in activities, as well as variety. Involvement your freshman and sophomore year can result in officer/leadership positions your junior and senior years!
- Community service is an area of growing importance to colleges and scholarships. Get involved in community service projects at your school, church, and community
- See your Alpha guidance counselor to make sure you are on track for graduating, help with picking out next year's classes, and ways to get involved.
- Attend local college fairs in the area. See your counselor for dates and times.
- Also for 10<sup>th</sup> graders, you can sign up to meet with college representatives who visit your high school.

### WINTER

- Continue doing well in classes and participating in clubs, activities, and service projects.
- Start thinking about where you would like to go to college. Size, costs, location and academic programs are some of the things to consider. Explore the Internet and Naviance
- Start studying for the ACT and SAT tests. Sample tests are available in Student Services and Study guides, prep courses and computer tutorials are available online.

### SPRING

- Register to continue to taking a full course load of college-prep courses in your next year. It will pay off later.
- Discuss post-secondary enrollment options with your guidance counselor.
- For 10<sup>th</sup> graders, prepare for and take the PSAT-10 test in April. Discuss PSAT scores with your guidance counselor. If necessary, develop a plan to increase your scores when you take the tests again in your junior or senior year.
- Apply for a summer job or participate in volunteer work. Look for any supplemental learning or camps available at a local college.

### SUMMER

- Start visiting college campuses.
- Talk with students currently enrolled at the colleges and/or alumni who return
- Read, read, read. Pick up a new hobby or skill.
- Continue involvement in the community through volunteering.
- Participate in summer academic enrichment activities, such as Summer Scholars.