

College Planning Timeline

Ninth Grade Parents

Fall

- Your child's grades appear on official transcripts starting this year.
- Check out Family Connection by Naviance.
- Visit the school and meet your child's teachers and counselor; ask how and when it's best to communicate with them. Let them know you expect your child to be ready for college. Learn when report cards will come out, and ask for progress updates.
- The initial weeks of high school can be a difficult adjustment, socially and academically. Keep an open dialogue about how classes are going. If your child is struggling, now is the time to get a handle on it.
- Encourage your child to explore extra-curricular activities at school and in the community. Encourage their involvement in meaningful activities in and out of school.
- Check the high school website for information about events, testing dates, attendance reports, and access to your child's grades.
- Together, create a college information folder for materials on college-related topics.**
- Together, create a place to store volunteer hours, awards, examples of best-work, and other materials that will be helpful when applying to college in the fall of your child's senior year. Keep an activities record that lists participation in activities, as well as accomplishments, awards, and leadership positions.**
- If your child has particularly strong academic interests, encourage them, but don't lose focus on strengthening areas of weakness that can't be ignored, such as English and algebra.

Spring

- Check-in with your child's teachers and counselor to find out how he or she is doing academically and socially. Social challenges can affect academic performance.
- Together, explore summer academic enrichment opportunities at high school or in the community; apply as early as March for these programs.**
- Keep up regular conversations with your child about his academic progress. Grades should be up to par. If not, perhaps your child could use your help in establishing better study habits or creating a better study environment. **Together, develop an improvement plan.** Encourage.