

FRESHMAN TO-DO LIST: 2017 – 2018

1. Keep Your Grades Up.

Colleges view your GPA as the most important factor in your application, and even though the University of California and California State University do not include your freshman grades in their GPA calculation, EVERY A through G NINTH GRADE COURSE must be satisfied with a C or better. No Ds or Fs! If you are having problems in a class, GET HELP. Talk to your teacher about tutoring, and come to the College/Career Center for Peer Tutoring every morning @ 7:30 or the LEARNING CENTER for help before or after school.

2. Commit Yourself to Extracurriculars.

Think about ways you can contribute to both the school and the larger community. Think about the skills you possess and ways in which you can utilize them. Don't just join clubs: make them better! Accept responsibility and demonstrate leadership.

3. Study your personal PSAT Score Report and utilize all of the College

Board Resources to improve your skills and scores! We will be bringing all Freshman English classes to the Library later this semester to explain how to use the information. When you receive your scores, look specifically at **Your Scores: Next Steps**; then go to studentscores.collegeboard.org for SAT Practice, AP & Course Work. You will get a **PRESCRIPTION**, based on your test results, that will take you to Khan Academy for instruction and practice to improve your skills. Utilize the resources available through the College Board.

4. Seize Opportunities to Learn About Colleges.

Visit local colleges, and attend College Representatives' meetings at BCCHS if your teachers allow. (Sign up in College/Career Center and get a pass from your classroom teacher.)

5. Seek Opportunities to Explore Careers.

After you complete the career assessment this year, research career paths that interest you. Talk to people working in those fields, and check out the educational requirements to pursue those careers.

6. Examine Your Transcript.

What's missing? How can you strengthen your record? If you have any Ds or Fs in core classes (A thru G), see your 9th grade counselor about retaking those classes.

7. Plan Your Courses for Sophomore Year.

Think about AP, Honors, and community college classes that interest you and for which you qualify. Plan to take Math next year.

8. Plan Your Summer.

Do something rewarding and meaningful next summer, so start planning now. Attend Summer School if needed, and start preparing for your all-important Sophomore year. Read, read, read; and make yourself aware of the world and your place in it. Colleges are interested in knowing what you choose to do with your time when you have the chance to choose.