

SOPHOMORE

Post-Secondary Planning Checklist

While a student's college and career future seems far away, in 10th grade, individual students need to keep long-term goals in mind. A student's current class selection and academic performance might be indicators of future job aspirations. Students need to stay abreast of current academic work, take challenging courses, and gain depth of commitment through extracurricular activities. As sophomores start navigating the college and career exploration process, they can always reach out to MHS School Counselors for direction.

TO DO LIST

☐ Take Challenging Courses

Success in challenging academic courses provides the college admissions and human resources personnel with the best evidence of ability to succeed in college and career. In fact, many admissions offices will remove elective course grades when they calculate a core high school GPA. Not only should students focus heavily on their academic coursework, but they should seek out career specific coursework as applicable. Employers may also look at an academic transcript when a student applies for jobs to see evidence of his/her work ethic and school performance.

☐ Focus on Grades

A student's academic transcript displays his/her diligence in the classroom, as well as providing a glimpse into his/her self-discipline and time management skills.

☐ Put Effort into Extracurricular Activities

Focus more on the meaningful activities, but do not be afraid to try something new. Get a jumpstart on completing community service hours, and find activities that demonstrate passions.

☐ Set up YouScience

MHS students can access a personal YouScience Invitation to activate their accounts. The goal of YouScience is to help students uncover and understand their natural abilities and find the career paths that will best use those talents. Students will play nine different brain games and have access to their account for ten years.

☐ Register for the ASVAB

The ASVAB is not an intelligence test, but rather a test of one's individual strengths and weaknesses in areas such as math, science, and reading, as well as one's current knowledge of specific mechanical, electronic, automotive, and shop concepts. The ASVAB program helps students learn about their skills and interests, identify potential occupations, and discover all the pathways to career-field entry. We offer this test in the fall and spring.

Create a High School Resume

Complete a list of activities, talents, honors, leadership positions, interests, and job experience and put it in a resume format. This will save time and help students remember everything in the future for scholarship, college, and/or job applications.

Consider College Majors or Potential Career Fields

Research careers that may spark interest in a specific major. Job shadow within these professions. Explore careers through YouScience and SchoolLinks.

Keep Reading

This is good advice for any grade level. The more students read, the stronger a student's verbal, writing and critical thinking abilities will be. Reading beyond homework will help students perform better on the ACT, ASVAB, SAT, and in college. Reading improves vocabulary and exposes students to new ideas and higher level concepts.

Research and Visit Colleges & Potential Employers

Use SchoolLinks to explore colleges. Attend college or career fairs-Maryville College hosts a fall Blount County College Fair in September. MHS offers juniors and seniors two FREE excused college visit days, so take advantage of every opportunity to visit a college campus. Make an appointment to go on campus tours through the school's admissions office -- preferably when the colleges are in session.

Have a Summer Plan

There's no formula to what defines a productive summer, but students should make sure they do something that leads to personal growth and valuable experiences. Research summer enrichment programs at colleges, internships, volunteer opportunities, camps, and summer jobs.