

FRESHMAN YEAR CHECKLIST

Organization and Time Management

- Find an organizational method that works for you. Examples include color-coded notebooks, binders for hole-punched pages separated by subject, and planners for recording assignments and due dates or use the calendar and reminders on your mobile telephone.
- Designate a folder for pertinent documents, report cards, certificates, and other recognitions.
- Create and maintain a personal resume.
- Establish a nightly routine and allot a specific and appropriate amount of time for homework, study, rehearsals, extra-curricular activities, and sleeping. Good sleep improves brain performance, mood, and health.

Standardized Tests

- SAT information – www.collegeboard.org
- ACT information – www.actstudent.org
- Test optional schools – <https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

College Search

- Create a College Board account if you do not have one at www.collegeboard.org.
- Start reviewing college opportunities using the Big Future program through College Board. www.collegeboard.org/bigfuture
- The general recommendation is to have your list of college/universities narrowed to 3 to 5 possibilities by your senior year; however, start with at least 10 schools for now. (You could earn \$500 by selecting 10 schools in Big Future.)
- If you are uncertain of majors, look at liberal arts school. Declaring a major typically occurs at the end of college sophomore year.
- Need ideas about possible majors? Visit www.cfnc.org and take a career interest inventory.
- Expand your college list – include a far-reaching dream school, a school for which you surpass the requirements, and a mixture between the two. Think about the location, major, opportunities, job placement, travel expenses, etc.

Recommendations

- Although you do not need recommendations now, you will later.
- Make certain you are building bridges with teachers/counselor/coach/mentor/group leader.
- You need at least two faculty members and one additional person available to provide recommendations in the Fall of the senior year.

Scholarship/Financial Aid Information

- Create a free www.fastweb.com account for scholarship opportunities.
- Search potential college/university websites to find school-specific scholarships.
- More information is provided in the Spring of the junior year.
- Visit <https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/> for additional information on how you may be eligible for up to a total of \$40,000 in scholarship opportunities.

Community Service

- Service-Learning is not required, but strongly recommended.
- If you need ideas, visit the Service-Learning page on Weaver's website at <https://www.gcsnc.com/domain/10645>.
- Document your service hours using x2VOL – see Ms. Steele (school counselor) for more information.
- Cumulative service-learning hours earned in Grades 9-12 receive the following recognition: Service-Learning Diploma and graduation regalia cord for 200+ eligible hours, Service-Learning Exemplary Award for 100-199 eligible hours, and Service-Learning Honor for 70-99 eligible hours.