FRESHMEN YEAR

✓Start with an academic 4-year plan and map out your courses for your time in high school. Work with your counselor to make sure that the courses are appropriate for you and that they work together to allow you to take more difficult classes.

✓Take a career interest inventory and use the outcomes to map your curriculum and the coursework necessary to be able to go on to post-secondary classes based on your career aspirations.

✓Learn how to figure your Grade Point Average (GPA). This will help you understand how it works, why it is important and how weighted classes can impact it.

✓Build strong academic, language, mathematics, and critical thinking skills by taking challenging courses. Strengthen your vocabulary by increasing your reading.

✓Develop a serious attitude toward your studies. Grade point average and class rank are important considerations for your acceptance into most colleges. Your GPA counts!

✓Develop good study habits. If you find yourself struggling with your studies at any point during your freshman year, first consult with your teacher, and then check with faculty and counselors for study skills assistance and for peer tutorial help.

✓Consider taking a Learning Styles Inventory to determine how you learn best and how to develop strategies to improve your study skills.

✓Plan your involvement in extra-curricular, class, and community activities purposefully. Your resume (which includes academic achievements, awards, honors, GPA, leadership positions and school/community activities) becomes very important as you apply for jobs, special programs, post-secondary schools, and scholarships.

✓Use websites such as BigFuture, Fast Web and others to get an idea of what kinds of careers and colleges may be a good fit for you.

✓Stay informed of what high school courses are required by colleges, this may be beyond our high school requirements.

✓Register with NCAA.org or NAIA.ORG and review the requirements for either organization if you would like to play sports in college.

✓Keep an academic portfolio and extracurricular record.

✓Begin/continue saving money for college. Part-time and summer employment is a great way to learn important job skills for your future.