Freshman Year	SHS School Counseling College/Career Readiness Calendar
August/September – Tips: Set academic and personal goals for the year. Develop good study habits, organization skills, and a positive attitude towards school.	• Attend New Student Orientation and participate fully in 9th Grade Advisory Curriculum and First Year Experience (FYE) Modules 1 and 2. • If enrolled in a UConn ECE course, register with UConn to be eligible for credit. See your school counselor for help with the process and to confirm deadlines. • Get involved! Join a sport, club, or activity to explore interests, meet new people, and start building a resume for future plans. • Focus on a strong academic start, ask for extra help when needed and make academics a priority. Remember: all final grades become part of your high school transcript.
October Tip: Attending Financial Aid Night can clarify college costs, scholarships, and aid options, helping you plan early and make informed choices.	• Continue participating in 9th Grade Advisory Curriculum. • Complete FYE Module 3: Effective Decision Making in small group sessions with your school counselor. • Attend Financial Aid Night to begin learning how college costs and scholarships work. • Take the PSAT to gain experience with standardized testing. • Explore opportunities at the SHS College Fair. Talk with representatives and gather information for the future. • Review your performance in current classes, and seek extra help early if you notice areas for improvement.
November Tip: Teachers who know you well can highlight your strengths, character, and growth, when writing their recommendations for your college applications.	• Schedule a meeting with your school counselor to discuss your College Fair experience and explore potential career ideas. • Build relationships with teachers and communicate if you need help. • Participate in clubs, sports, or other interests to develop new skills and meet new classmates. • Balance academics with extracurricular activities to help reduce stress and enrich your high school experience.
December Tip: Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound goals lead to better focus and outcomes.	• Attend College Future Planning Night for an introduction to post-secondary planning. • Participate in FYE Module 4: SMART Goal Setting and Time Management Strategies in small group sessions with School Counselors. • Meet with your School Counselor to review first semester achievements, identify areas for improvement, and update your SMART goals for the rest of the year.
January Tip: Start thinking about courses	• Participate in 9th-grade Advisory lessons to prepare for midterms. Lessons include reviewing and copying the exam schedule, understanding exam procedures, and learning effective study strategies.

for your sophomore year and have conversations with your Teachers.	• Discuss course recommendations for next year with SHS teachers, who will record placements and comments in PowerSchool. • Begin entering course requests into PowerSchool for the upcoming school year. • Course Selection Portal opens for all students in grades 8–11 to submit course requests.
February Tip: Meeting with your school counselor helps you choose courses that align with your academic goals, interests, and graduation requirements.	• Attend a Course Request meeting with your School Counselor to review and update your 4 Year Course/Career Goal Plan • Discuss and finalize course requests for the next school year. • Select electives that match your interests and strengths. Exploring these options can help you uncover potential career paths.
March Tip: Career exploration is important to start early because it allows students to understand their strengths and interests better to make informed educational choices.	• Participate in FYE Module 5: Career Exploration. • Review your completed career assessment results with your School Counselor to gain insights into possible career paths and outline your next steps. • Attend the National College Fair at the Hartford Convention Center to explore post-secondary options and connect with college representatives.
April Tip Knowing your graduation requirements in 9th grade helps ensure you take the right courses to graduate on time and sets up a strong academic foundation for your future goals.	• Participate in FYE Module 6: Understanding Graduation Requirements during small group sessions with your School Counselor. • Review your schedule for next year with your School Counselor to ensure it aligns with your goals and graduation requirements. • Attend the National College Fair at the Big E Fairgrounds to explore colleges, programs, and opportunities.
May Tip Celebrate your accomplishments for the year and identify areas where you need improvement.	• Schedule a meeting with your school counselor to review your academic schedule for next year and discuss goal-setting strategies to help you prepare for next year.
June Tip Enjoy your summer!	• Finish the school year strong by staying organized and keeping up with your assignments. Use a checklist to ensure you complete all your end-of-year projects and study for your exams.