Adapted from:

CollegeBoard Access

College Planning: 9th/10th Grade

There are some steps you can take as a ninth- and a 10th-grader to make sure you're on the right track for college. This list will help you navigate the college planning process.

9TH GRADE

☐ **Create a four-year high school plan.** Think about what you'd like to accomplish in the next four years.

- Make sure you know which high school courses are required by colleges (examples included on back), and that you're taking the right classes as early as the ninth grade.
- **Check college and university websites for specific admissions requirements.**
- Get to know the levels of courses offered at MHS.

☐ **Start thinking about your life after school,** including the types of jobs that might interest you. Of course, these will change — often — but it's good to start thinking about the possibilities.

- Identify your interests — likes and dislikes. This will help you focus on your goals.
- Talk to other people, teachers, recent college graduates who are working, professionals in the community, etc., about careers you might find interesting.

☐ **Meet with your high school counselor.** Your counselor knows how to help you get the most out of high school. Be sure to take some time during the school year to discuss post-high-school plans with him or her.

- Many non-traditional programs are offered such as South Tech School, A+, Early College Program, Spark!, and more!

☐ **Participate in extracurricular activities.** Academics aren't everything. Explore your interest in a sport, school club, music or drama group, or community volunteer activity.

- **Remember that colleges would rather see real involvement in one activity instead of a loose connection to several.**
- If you're interested in playing sports in college, research the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility requirements. The NCAA requires completion of certain core courses; you can find the specifics at **NCAA.org**

☐ **Save for college.** It's not too late to put money aside for college. Every little bit helps! Learning about financial aid early on can also help you down the road.

☐ **Explore summer opportunities.** Look for a job, internship, or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest.

- Rockwood's Partners in Education (PIE) office has a lot of program information and opporutnities listed.

Scan QR code for the College & Career Website

More information on back

10TH GRADE

☐ **Meet with your high school counselor — again.** Be sure to meet with your school counselor to ensure that your course schedule is challenging enough to prepare you for college.

- Check into any prerequisites for advanced-level junior- and senior-year courses.

☐ **Ask if the PSAT/NMSQT is offered to 10th-graders.** Although this test is usually given in the 11th grade, it is also often offered in the 10th grade. That's because it provides valuable feedback through the Student Score Report. You can then work on any of your academic weaknesses while there is still plenty of time to make improvements.

☐ **Are you interested in attending a U.S. military academy?** Representatives are often in the lunchroom during the school year to answer questions

☐ **Along with your family, do some research about how to obtain financial aid.** Many students use financial aid to cover college costs. Find out what financial aid is, where it comes from, and how you can apply for it.

☐ **Attend college and career fairs.** The fairs often take place in the fall at your school or in your area.

☐ **Participate in school activities or volunteer efforts.** Extracurricular activities can help you develop time-management skills and enrich your high school experience.

☐ **Tour college campuses.** If possible, take advantage of vacation or other family travel time to visit colleges and see what they're like. Even if you have no interest in attending the college you are visiting, it will help you learn what to look for in a college.

☐ **College and Career Counselors at MHS begin meeting with students in the Spring of their JUNIOR year.** Check out our website for more information: https://marquette.rsdmo.org/learn/college-and-career

☐ **Feel free to email us with questions at any time.** Students with last names A-K (Mrs. Torgoley torgoleylayla@rsdmo.org) and students with last names L-Z (Ms. Ake akepaula@rsdmo.org)

Examples of High School Course Requirements for College Admissions

University of Missouri Columbia
4 Units: Language Arts
4 Units: Mathematics
3 Units: Science
3 Units: Social Studies
2 Units: World Language
1 Unit: Fine Arts

Washington University in St. Louis
4 Units: Language Arts
4 Units: Mathematics (architecture, business, and engineering strongly recommend calculus)
3 Units: laboratory science* (engineering recommends chemistry and physics)
3 Units: Social Studies
At least 2 years of the same foreign language **since the ninth grade**

*The College of Arts & Sciences recommends both chemistry and physics for students who plan to do coursework in pre-medicine or the natural sciences.

University of Mississippi
4 Units: Language Arts
4 Units: Mathematics
3 Units: Science
3 ½ Units: Social Studies
1 Unit: Fine Arts
2 Units: Advanced Electives (including World Language)
1 Unit: Technology or Computer Science

Missouri State University
4 Units: Language Arts
3 Units: Mathematics
3 Units: Science
3 Units: Social Studies
1 Unit: Fine Arts

Missouri High School Graduation Requirements
4 Units: Language Arts
3 Units: Mathematics
3 Units: Science
3 Units: Social Studies
1 Unit: Fine Arts
1 Unit: Career & Technical Ed
1 Unit: Physical Education
½ Unit: Health
½ Unit: Personal Finance

Remember: Every college/university sets it's own high school course requirements for admissions purposes. Make sure to check their website for the most up-to-date and accurate information each year.

Note: Specific majors and/or degree programs may have even more requirements than those set for general admissions.