

Freshman Planning Timeline

FRESHMAN YEAR

When you first begin high school, graduation may seem like a distant goal. However, in a few short years, you may be applying to college(s) or going into the workforce! Freshman year is about building strong academic habits. The grades you earn in freshman year influence your options in your senior year. You do not want to look back on your freshman year grades and wish you had done better. If you find yourself struggling, seek out help early on by asking your teacher for extra help, seeking out tutoring options, or utilizing other free community resources. Do not wait until you are too far behind to catch up!

Make sure you talk to your counselor about the different diploma tracks and courses available to you. If you are working towards or any of the new Optional Seals (class of 2029+), make sure you check out the requirements for these diplomas as they have additional requirements beyond the Indiana Diploma.

When you begin to think about scheduling classes for your sophomore year, keep in mind that colleges look at the classes you choose to take. You should take a rigorous curriculum that includes courses that both interest and challenge you. It is very easy to bring your GPA down, but it is not easy to bring it back up.

Most students change their mind about their career paths at least once or twice during the course of high school, so it's important that you stay knowledgeable about what career you are interested in and which courses would be most beneficial for you to take. If there is a specific career you are interested in, make sure you are checking to see if CPHS offers any courses that may be beneficial.

It may seem early, but you should start developing habits now that will be appreciated by employers. Get to class on time, learn how to manage your time, and email your teacher(s) to communicate any issues, questions or concerns respectfully.

Freshman Year Checklist

August

- ☐ Double check your schedule--does it coincide with your post-secondary plans?
- ☐ Sign up for extracurricular activities that interest you!

September

- ☐ Study hard! Freshman semester grades are included in your final high school GPA!
- ☐ Start a resume!
- ☐ Attend the CPHS College & Career Fair! Pick up information and speak with college, workforce and military reps to learn about your options.

October

- ☐ Explore your career and/or college interests. Talk with your parent/guardian and school counselor so that everyone is on the same page.
- ☐ Sign up for extracurricular activities that interest you!

November

- ☐ Find a summer program of interest and start the application process next month!

December / January

- ☐ Study for final exams!
- ☐ Start your 2nd semester out on the right foot!

February

- ☐ Work on your 10th grade schedule with your counselor during scheduling
- ☐ If you want to play collegiate sports, take the necessary steps to increase your eligibility and market your abilities!

March / April

- ☐ Think about job shadowing during Spring Break!
- ☐ If any organizations/clubs you are a part of hold elections for next year's leadership, think about running for office!
- ☐ If you're interested in attending a military academy after high school graduation, request information to learn about their information requirements.

May

- ☐ Study for final exams!
- ☐ Take AP Tests.
- ☐ Go over your schedule one last time to ensure you're preparing for your post-secondary goals!

June / July

- ☐ Be active this summer! Work a job, volunteer, job shadow, or attend a college summer program!