Heritage High School – 9th Grade Action Plan 2026-27

It may seem early to start thinking about getting ready for college, but it really isn't – important groundwork should take place in ninth and tenth grade. Here's a list to help you make sure you are on the right track:

- ✓ Check daily announcements for College "to do list" reminders & find out which college representatives will be visiting.
- ✓ Visit the HHS website – College & Career page for scholarships & other resources.
- ✓ Stop by the College & Career Center for resource material & College search information.
- ✓ Make a file to manage your college search, testing, and application data.
- ✓ Keep track of all awards, community service, jobs, and etc.

Do you qualify for Free or Reduce lunch? If so, stop by the CCC you could be eligible for testing Fee Waivers!

GRADE 9

- ☐ Create a four-year high school plan that relates to your goals – the Heritage HS Course Catalog provides an outline. Make sure you know what courses are required by colleges. Review the UC – CSU Minimum A – G Course Requirements or other desired Universities.
- ☐ Start thinking about careers. Identify your interests, likes and dislikes, not just in academics but in all areas. Discuss career options with others, school counselor, teachers, recent college graduates, professionals in the community, etc. A useful career exploration website is www.Eureka.org Access code X7HR2CM
- ☐ Get involved in extracurricular activities – these activities will help you develop time-management skills and enrich the school experience.
- ☐ Plan on playing collegiate sports? Check your Core Course Completion.
  Athletic Eligibility requirement check lists are available in the Career Center and on the HHS website.
- ☐ Visit www.bigfuture.org for career, major and college search.
- ☐ Begin scholarship search: www.fastweb.com, www.scholarships.com and on our own Heritage website.
- ☐ Visit some local colleges – large, small, public, and private. Get a feel for what works for you.

College Exams (Optional)

SAT or ACT: College entrance tests are generally taken during the junior and senior year of high school; however, they may be taken at any time. Students may take these tests as often as they like, generally the college or university takes the highest score from each test for college admissions. **Many Universities have moved to a TEST OPTION admission, research the institution that you plan to attend to confirm requirement. **

SAT Reasoning Test is a measure of a student's critical thinking skills. It will assess how well he/she can solve problems and analyze.

ACT Assessment is used to measure a student's readiness and academic achievement for college by assessing their English, Mathematics, Reading and Science skills.

The SAT & ACT are administered at local High Schools. Students register online www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org

Practice Tests

Practice Tests provide information to help students identify academic skills that need improvement while there is still time to make an impact. Students register for practice tests in the HHS Student Store.

PSAT/NMSQT Focusing on the content students learn in the classroom, they will reflect strong instruction — in Math, English Language Arts, Science, History, and Social Studies — it relates directly to the skills research shown to be essential for college and career readiness. It is used by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (must be a junior to qualify). PSAT has partnered with KHAN ACADEMY, to create a free study plan especially for each student: www.khanacademy.org/sat

PSAT 10 will focus on the knowledge and skills that current research shows are most essential for college and career readiness. The test will reflect the work students are doing in classrooms across the country and around the globe.

ASVAB has tests and activities that help students identify their interests and provide information about their Verbal, Math and Science and Technical skills. Students sign up in the College & Career Center.

Parent Action Plan: 9th Grade

The beginning of high school is an exciting time. Your child may be adjusting to a new school, making new friends and becoming more independent. But your child still needs your help and involvement. Here are some things you can do together to succeed this year.

Summer Before High School

- Visit a college campus together. It's a great way to get your child excited about college. Learn more about how you and your child can **prepare for a campus visit**.

- Get the facts about what college costs. You may be surprised at how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading **Understanding College Costs**.

- Show your child how to explore career ideas. He or she can make a list of interests, talents and favorite activities and start matching them with occupations. Learn more about how your child can **complete a career worksheet**.

- Come up with fun reading ideas. Look for magazines or newspapers your child may like and talk about the books you loved reading when you were your child's age. If your family makes reading enjoyable, it can become a daily habit.

Fall

- Make sure your child meets with the school counselor. Your child should schedule a meeting to talk about college and career options and to choose the most-appropriate classes. Learn more about **the high school counselor's role**.

- Help your child set goals for the school year. Working toward specific goals helps your child stay motivated and focused.

- Make a plan to check in regularly about schoolwork. If you keep up with your child's tests, papers and homework assignments, you can celebrate successes and head off problems as a team. Get **homework tips for your child**.

- Talk about extracurricular activities. Getting involved in clubs and other groups is a great way for your child to identify interests and feel more engaged in school. Read more about **the benefits of extracurriculars**.

Winter

- Start thinking about financial aid. It's not too early to look into types of aid that could help you cover college costs. Start by reading **7 Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid**.

- Discuss next year's classes. Make sure your child is challenging him- or herself — and taking the courses college admission officers expect to see. Learn more about the **high school classes that colleges look for**.

Spring

- Help your child start a college list. Visit **College Search Step-by-Step** together to get tips on starting a college search and figuring out what matters most to your child when choosing a college.

- See how much you need to save for college. Use the **College Savings Calculator** to get an idea of where you are compared with your savings goal.

- Help your child make summer plans. Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Find out ways your child can **stay motivated this summer**.

https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-parents/parent-action-plan-9th-grade#