Heritage High School – 10th Grade Action Plan 2026-27

- ✓ 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, etc.

GRADE 10

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

☐ Make sure you are enrolled in college-preparatory courses.
Review the UC – CSU Minimum A – G Course Requirements.

☐ 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.

☐ 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).

☐ Attend College Night on October 14, 2026 at Liberty High School at 6:00pm-8:00pm.

☐ Begin scholarship search: www.fastweb.com, www.scholarships.com and on our own Heritage website.

☐ Get involved in extracurricular activities – these activities will help you develop time-management skills and enrich the school experience.

☐ Review for the **ACT** or the **SAT**.

☐ Visit some local colleges – large, small, public, and private. Get a feel for what works for you.

☐ If you are considering any military academies, you should request a pre-candidate questionnaire and complete it.

College Exams (Optional)

SAT or ACT: College exams 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.

SAT 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 — and relate directly to the skills research shows are essential for college and career. 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.

For more details, visit the College & Career Center or Webpage.

Parent Action Plan: 10th Grade

As your child settles into the high school experience, it's a great time for him or her to take on new challenges. It's also not too early to explore colleges, college majors and career goals. Use the list below to help make 10th grade count.

Summer

- Visit a college campus together. It's a great way to get your 10th-grader 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 by how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading **Understanding College Costs**.
- Help your sophomore explore career ideas. He or she can make a list of interests, talents and favorite activities and start matching them with occupations. Learn how to use exercises like these to **make 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 in high school. If your family makes reading enjoyable, it can become a daily habit.

Fall

- Make sure your child meets with the school counselor. Your sophomore should schedule a meeting to talk about college and career options and to make sure he or she is taking the most-appropriate classes. Learn more about **the high school counselor's role**.
- Encourage your child to set goals for the school year. Working toward specific goals helps your high schooler 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 sophomore.
- 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**.
- Help your 10th-grader get ready to take preliminary exams. Taking the PSAT/NMSQT or the PLAN this fall can help your child prepare for college admission tests. Sophomores can also use their score reports to figure out which academic areas they need to work on. Learn more about the **PSAT/NMSQT**.

Winter

- Review PSAT 10 or PSAT/NMSQT results together. Log in to the **SAT Suite of Assessments Student Reporting Portal** with your child to learn what she or he is doing well and which skills your child should work on to get ready for college and career. It will also connect your child to free, personalized SAT study tools; AP courses; and college and career planning resources.
- Start thinking about ways to pay for college. Most families get help paying for college costs. Read **7 Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid** to learn more.
- Encourage your sophomore to consider taking SAT Subject Tests. Many colleges require or recommend taking these tests to get a sense of your child's skills in a certain academic area. In general, it's best to take a Subject Test right after taking the relevant course. Learn more about **SAT Subject Tests**.
- Discuss next year's classes. Make sure your child will be 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

- Make a college wish list together. Talk with your 10th-grader about qualities he or she may want in a college in terms of location, size, majors offered and so on. Check out **How to Find a College That Fits You** to learn more about deciding on college must-haves.
- See how much you need to save for college. Use the **College Savings Calculator** to get an idea of where you are in terms of 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 five ways your high schooler can **stay motivated this summer**.