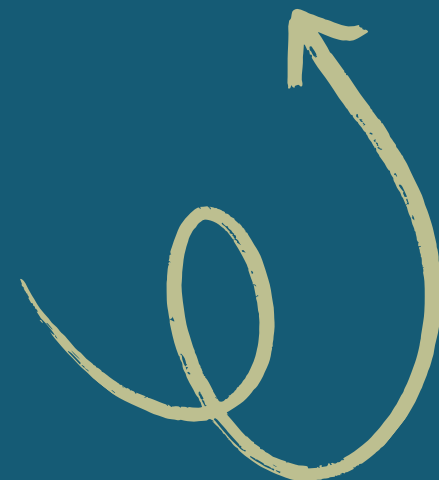


HCS Scholars Academy

10th Grade
Student & Parent
Meeting



Your Sophomore Chapter

Building Your Story

the story begins...



Where are you in the story?



Freshman year

You learned how to be a Scholars student.

Sophomore year

You begin making more intentional choices.

Junior year

Your academic and college planning accelerates.

Senior year

You tell your story through your applications and next steps.



Pursue Your Interests

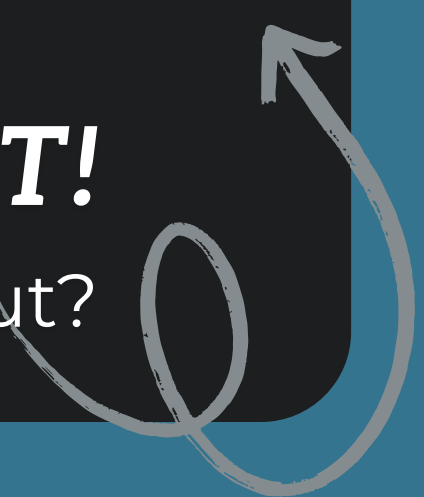
What interests YOU?

**10th grade is the time to
explore with purpose.**



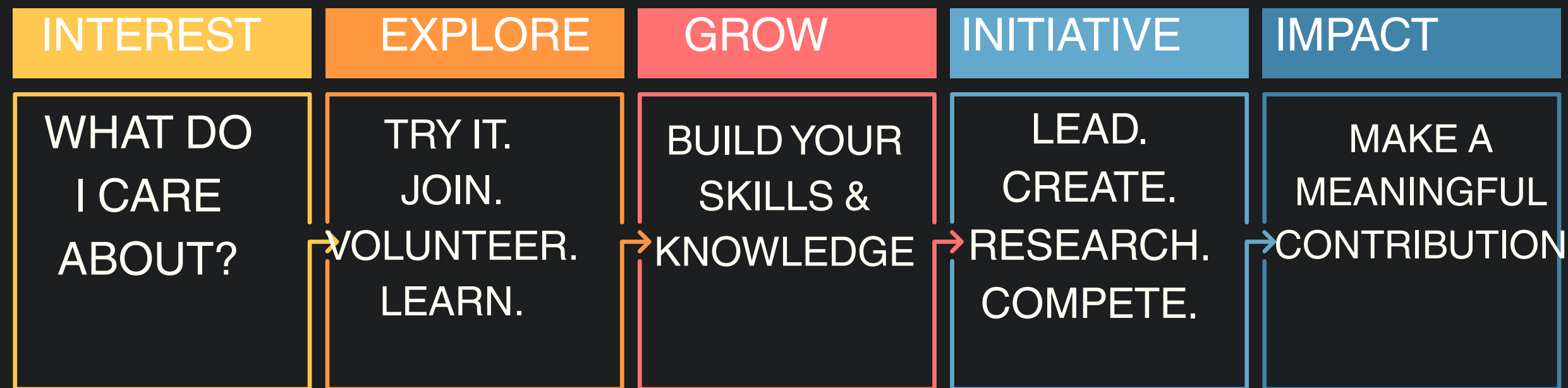
DISCOVER WHAT MATTERS TO YOU--THEN BUILD ON IT!

If someone looked at how you spend your time, could they tell what you care about?



From Interest to IMPACT

Turn what you care about into meaningful experiences.



The experiences you build today become the story you'll tell tomorrow.



GREAT GRADES ARE JUST THE BEGINNING

Your story gives colleges a reason to remember you!

- ✓ You have two more years before college applications.
- ✓ use them intentionally.
- ✓ Build experiences that matter to you.

IVY LEAGUE REALITY CHECK

~3–7% overall
admissions rate.

*Strong academics matter
—but they are only part of
your application.*

You don't need to have your story figured out today. You just need to start building it.



Keep Track of Your Story

Start your activities résumé now.

TRACK

Activities	Awards
Leadership	Service
Employment	Summer experiences
Research	Competitions
Projects	Accomplishments

FOR EACH, RECORD

- 1 *What did you do?*
- 2 *How long? How often?*
- 3 *What was your contribution or impact?*

Senior-year you will be VERY glad
sophomore-year you did this.

The People in Your Story



Strong recommendations start with strong relationships.

Teachers and professors need to know more than your grade.

Participate

Ask questions

Seek help

Show curiosity

Be dependable

Engage beyond what is required

**The best recommendation doesn't say,
"She earned an A."
It tells us who the student is.**

Know Your Numbers

———— GPA and test scores are information—not your identity.

Strong GPAs aren't built overnight—
they're built one assignment, one class, one semester at a time.
Know your numbers. Set your goals. Work smart. Keep building.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

PSAT → Review results → Identify strengths & gaps → Practice strategically

PSAT -- October 7th @ 8:00 AM

AP US History Exam--May 7 @ 8 AM

AP Calculus Exam--May 10 @ 8 AM

AP Language Exam--May 12 @ 8 AM

US History EOC Exam--Mid May

JUNIOR YEAR

PSAT / NMSQT + SAT / ACT + AP Exams

The junior-year

*PSAT/NMSQT is associated
with National Merit
consideration.*

Your Summer is Part of the Story

What should I do the summer after 10th grade?



Expensive $\neq$ Impressive

A prestigious summer program isn't a requirement for admission to a prestigious college. What matters is how students use opportunities available to them.

● ● ● ●

Research

Work

Volunteer

Shadow/Internship

Create Something

Travel/Rest

Attend a Program

Start Exploring Colleges

Don't finalize "the list" yet. Explore and Build.

Start with questions:

- 01** What size feels right?
- 02** How far from home?
- 03** What academic opportunities matter?
- 04** Research university or liberal arts college?
- 05** Urban or college town?
- 06** What campus culture appeals to me?
- 07** What can my family afford?

YOUR 10TH GRADE IGP

This is where we make **YOUR** plan.

During your Individual Graduation Plan, we can discuss:

01

Academic progress

02

Junior-year courses

03

Interests and possible
careers/majors

04

Activities

05

Testing

06

Summer opportunities

07

College exploration

08

Family questions

*Your IGP isn't about deciding your entire future.
It's about **BUILDING** your story.*



LET'S TALK ABOUT REGISTRATION

01

PERSONAL FINANCE IS A GRADUATION
REQUIREMENT

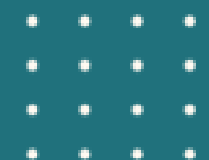
- CCU-FIN 110 or
- SCVS SUMMER COURSE

02

11th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES GRADUATION
REQUIREMENT

03

FOREIGN LANGUAGE
REQUIREMENTS & CONSTRAINTS



The Checklist.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Protect your academic record | ☐ Choose appropriate rigor |
| ☐ Explore academic interests | ☐ Get meaningfully involved |
| ☐ Develop depth in activities | ☐ Keep an activities résumé |
| ☐ Build relationships | ☐ Review PSAT results |
| ☐ Explore summer opportunities | ☐ Start exploring colleges |
| ☐ Begin family conversations about cost | ☐ Make an intentional junior-year plan |

one chapter at a time ✓



WHAT'S NEXT

Your story is just getting started.



You don't need to have everything figured out in 10th Grade!

BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, YOU SHOULD KNOW A LITTLE MORE ABOUT

- What interests you.
- What challenges you.
- What matters to you.
- What you want to explore next.

Don't build a résumé. Build your story.

Make sophomore year a chapter worth building on.

to be continued...