9TH Grade College Planning

CHECKLIST

**MANDATORY (Please enter these dates into your family calendar)*

Revised October 2026

✓	DATE	EVENT/TASK
	AUGUST	• **August 9th:** High School Back-to-School Night • **August 31st:** deadline to add/drop a course
	SEPTEMBER	• **September 21st**: College Dress Day • **September 22nd:** Christian College Fair • *Create a Cialfo account at DSA-srr.Cialfo.co used for all college planning tasks 9-12.* • *Create X2vol account (used to track volunteer hours)* • *Get involved in clubs or sports*
	OCTOBER	• ***October 13th:** 9th/10th Student & Parent College Night at 5:30 in the Art Lab (7pm, Test Prep Info 6:30) • **October 20th:** College Visit – Concordia University Texas • **October 21st:** Financial Aid Webinar • *Work on time management and study skills!* • *Work on volunteer hours.*
	NOVEMBER	• **TBD:** 1-on-1 Check-in Meeting with Mrs. Warner • *Work on Cialfo grade level tasks (profile, learning styles assessment)* • *Focus on grades (colleges see grades earned starting in 9th grade).*
	DECEMBER	• **December 7th:** College Dress Day
	JANUARY	• *Continue working on completing community service graduation requirements. All hours must be your X2vol account.*
	FEBRUARY	• **February 22nd:** College Dress Day
	MARCH	• ***March 9th:** PSAT 8/9

✓	DATE	EVENT/TASK
	APRIL	• **TBD:** Spring College Visit • **TBD:** Meet with Mrs. Warner to schedule Sophomore classes • ***April 16th:** 9th Grade Job Shadow Experience
	MAY	• **May 3rd:** AP Test – Human Geography • **May 11th:** College Dress Day • *Strive to complete at least 25% of community service requirement (update hours in X2vol)*
	SUMMER	• Update extracurriculars in Cialfo • Visit colleges

General Tips

Additional guidance by semester, to complement the dated items above — 9th Grade

Fall Semester

Academics

- ☐ Meet with your counselor to review your graduation plan.
- ☐ Ask your counselor which advanced courses might be a good fit as you move into 10th grade.

Get Involved

- ☐ Explore a few clubs, sports, or activities to find what you genuinely enjoy — going deep in one or two matters more than joining many.
- ☐ Look for a service or volunteer opportunity that interests you.

Testing

- ☐ Take the PSAT 8/9 if your school offers it — a low-stakes practice test that helps identify early strengths and gaps.

Get Organized

- ☐ Start a simple running record (a folder or spreadsheet) of activities, awards, and volunteer hours you can build on every year.
- ☐ Introduce yourself to your school counselor so you know who to go to with questions.

Student-Athletes

- ☐ If you hope to play NCAA Division I or II sports, know that your core courses start counting toward NCAA eligibility this year — ask your counselor which classes qualify.

Spring Semester

Academic Planning

- ☐ When scheduling sophomore year courses, ask your counselor about advanced options for 10th grade.
- ☐ Reflect on which subjects and activities you enjoyed most this year, and let that guide next year's choices.

Career & College Exploration

- ☐ Try a career interest inventory or exploration tool if your school offers one — there's no need to decide on anything yet.
- ☐ Attend a college fair or campus visit if the opportunity comes up, just to get familiar with the landscape.

Summer Planning

- ☐ Look into summer programs, camps, volunteer work, or a first part-time job connected to your interests.