

10th Grade To-Do List

- Sign up in September for the PSAT
- Focus on your GPA. Take the most challenging classes you can handle.
- Narrow down your activities to two or three that you'll do throughout high school and may pursue in college.
- Check out www.educationplannar.org for all your college planning needs.
- Start a list of colleges to consider. Be sure to go to any college fairs in your area...you'll learn the 'language' of exploring colleges. Use virtual tours and begin thinking about which colleges you'd like to visit in-depth
- Take a personality/interest inventory tests if you need help determining colleges or majors. See your academic advisor for guidance.
 - THE RIGHT COLLEGE
 - www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/tools/cpq/coquiz.htm
 - www.review.com
 - THE RIGHT MAJOR...
 - www.allthetests.com
 - www.testingroom.com
 - THE RIGHT CAREER...
 - www.collegeanswer.com/preparing/content/prep_assess.jsp
- Plan your summer. Find programs and camps to attend.
- Continue your scholarship search
- Review for the PSAT, SAT, and ACT during summer.
- Update your records of activities, volunteer work, programs, classes, and traveling. File information you receive on colleges, scholarships and tests.
- Review and revise your goals...set new ones.
- Think careers! Talk to people about their jobs. Arrange job shadows!

VOLUNTEERING

- List your interests and match them to possible service opportunities.
- Call professional organizations and associations related to your interests to see if they need volunteers or could suggest a volunteer position.
- Check the web.
 - www.idealists.org
 - www.volunteermatch.org
 - www.cares.org/national
 - www.servenet.org
- Check with the schools Academic Advisor or the Chaplain to see what service possibilities exist through your school.
- Ask your friends where they plan to volunteer.
- Check the web sites of local newspapers and television stations for lists of volunteer activities and events. Watch for stories on interesting charity events. Call the sponsoring agency and ask if you can volunteer.
- Check with your church. Can you teach Sunday school? Baby sit? Volunteer at church events. Do they sponsor missionary work?
- Turn your interests into volunteer work. If you take extracurricular classes (i.e. dance, music...), ask if they need help.
- Start your own volunteer group.

RESUMES

Include:

- **Personal Information**
 - Name
 - Address
 - Phone number
 - E-mail address

- **Scholastic information**
 - Name of high school
 - Class rank, GPA
 - SAT, ACT, and SATII scores

- **Academic achievements**
 - Honor roll
 - Advanced placement classes
 - College credit classes
 - Internet classes
 - Awards, nominations, recognitions, citations or special projects in subject areas
 - Tutoring or mentoring roles

- **Computer skills**
 - Programs you know
 - Skills (web site design, Programming)

- **Workshops**
 - Camps
 - Programs
 - Seminars
 - Competitions

- **Work**
 - Experience, internships

- **Club involvement**
 - School
 - Community
 - Church

- **Special interests**
 - Hobbies, pursuits

- **Volunteer work**
 - On-going and one time events

- **Athletics**
 - Participation and achievements

- **Leadership Roles**
 - Holding office in class, sports, clubs
 - Taking initiative or responsibility for projects
 - Leadership camp participation

THE TEST TO-DO'S

- SAT, ACT, or both? Check with your colleges to see what they require and if you need to take any SAT II tests
- Layout your own calendar for your test dates. Get this year's test dates from the testing organizations' web sites or check with your Academic Advisor.
- Register at least 6 weeks prior to the test date if you want to be assured that you will test at your first choice location. Test packets may be picked up in the Academic Advisor office or you may register directly with the testing organization at their web sites.
 - www.collegeboard.com
 - www.actstudent.org
- Prep for the test. Take the practice tests at the testing web sites
- Find out if prep classes or individual tutoring will be available at or through your school
- Check out the library and bookstores for prep materials and software programs that suit your needs
- Read and keep the test admission information packet you receive. File the information and phone numbers for future use.

THE DAY OF THE TEST

- Take with you
 - Your high school code
 - The code number of colleges to where you want your test scores sent
 - Admission ticket
 - Picture ID or driver license
 - Approved calculator
 - Extra pencils and erasers
 - Tissues
 - Water and a snack (only allowed at break)
 - Wear a watch to monitor your time
- Repeat testing if you need or think you are capable of getting a better score-but do something to increase your chances of improving first.

CAMPUS VISITS

Before you Visit:

- Call the admissions department one month before you visit. Make appointments with the admissions officer, teachers, or anyone else you need to see
- Ask to sit in on a class in your major and, if possible, sleep overnight in a dorm
- Request a course catalog and campus map. Review them before you go.
- Do a virtual tour before going, making notes of what you'd like to see.
- Make a list of questions to ask at colleges

During your visit:

- Grab brochures. Eat in the cafeteria. Keep your eyes and ears open. Notice student behavior, dress, prominent groups, Do you feel like you fit in?
- Notice the campus layout.
- Check out the conditions of the dorms, bathrooms, showers, and common rooms. Find out what is included and what you will need to supply.
- Read the student paper, local paper, and bulletin boards for activities, clubs, opportunities, on campus and local areas

- Check out the classrooms and labs. Are the facilities up-to-date and will they accommodate what you want to study?
- Check out computer availability. PCs or Macs? What is the student to computer ratio?
- Visit the library. Is it large enough for study groups? Quiet enough for private studying? Comfortable? Enough seating?
- Tour the physical education facilities. What kind of equipment is available? When is it available to you?
- Listen to your gut instinct. Do you feel comfortable? Safe? Is this the school for you?

After your visit:

- Make notes. Set up categories so you can compare colleges.
- Write- don't email - thank you notes to any representative you've met: admissions officer, financial aid officer, and professors