

TAKING YOUR FIRST COLLEGE STEPS!

9th and 10th Grade Students: College Exploration

Are you “college ready”? Read some tips below to help guide you throughout your freshman and sophomore years of high school!

⇒ **Explore Colleges Now!** This will help you narrow down your choices by the time you’re a senior. Understand what the college/university offers and visit the campus to see if it’s a good fit – it may be a lot different than you think (hint: write notes while you’re there).

⇒ **Where’s the Cash?** If possible, have a conversation with your parents/guardians *now* about financial expectations in college. This will help you pick colleges based on their costs, and if you will need scholarship and/or FAFSA assistance.

⇒ **Participate in Extracurricular Activities!** Explore your interests and hobbies outside of the classroom and gain new experiences in your community (bonus: this will help with your college applications as well). This will help narrow down majors in the future.

⇒ **Don’t Forget About the Present!** Work hard in your classes and try to understand the content you are learning. High school will help you develop the skills to succeed in college by learning what studying habits work for you, what teaching styles you prefer, etc.

⇒ **Talk to Your Counselor!** No two students are alike – speak with your counselor about what you want to accomplish after high school, and what that path looks like. They may know about opportunities that better fit your needs!