

## Freshman College Planning Checklist

### **ALWAYS**

- Discuss **college/military/career** path plans with your parents
- Keep your grades up and take the necessary courses for graduation
- Do volunteer work, community services and extra-curricular activity hours and log it

### **IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY**

- Join the Freshman Google Classroom** hosted by the College & Career Center.
- Keep track of your accomplishments as you go. Create a file now and record a summary of your activities, jobs, and experiences to use in creating a resume and also to generate ideas for college essays. It's easy if everything is in one place when you need it!

### **CREATE A FOUR-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL PLAN** – *What do you want to accomplish in the next 4 years?*

- Get to know the levels of courses offered by CHS. Make sure you are familiar with which high school courses are required by college and that you are taking the right classes as you progress. Your school counselor is available to help you know what those “right” courses are.
- Start thinking about your life after school including what jobs that you might enjoy. These of course, will change...often...but it's good to get in the possibility mindset now.
- Identify your interests, likes and dislikes, not just for school and classes but also in your life. This will help you determine your goals.
- Talk to people that have gone to the colleges you are interested in and/or have careers in the fields you are interested in.
- Use Career Exploration tools to find your niche; self-assessment testing, job shadowing, summer jobs, online research, workplace tours/visits, find a mentor, career day.

### **MEET WITH YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR**

- Your counselor knows how to help you achieve the most out of high school.
- Take some time during the school year to discuss post-high-school plans with them.

### **UTILIZE THE CHS COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER (CACC)**

- Engagement with the CACC will help narrow down your school selection and study areas of interest.
- Take advantage of weekly college/university and professional speakers in the Center.
- Attend the College Fair and Career Fair.
- Research Colleges, Universities, Trade School and Military options.
- Regularly visit The CACC for information and guidance.

### **PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- Academics aren't everything about high school – explore your interest in a sport, school club, music, or drama? Colleges enjoy seeing active consistent participation in extracurricular activities
- Explore summer opportunities. Look for a job, internship, or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest.
- Investigate summer enrichment programs offered at different colleges. Arizona schools have many opportunities.
- If you are interested in playing sports in college, research the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility requirements. The NCAA requires completion of certain core courses; you can find the specifics at [ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://ncaaclearinghouse.net)

### **GET FAMILIAR WITH THE PSAT, SAT & ACT TESTING**

- Research your colleges of interest to determine if SAT/ACT scores are required for admission.

- Take the PSAT 9/10<sup>th</sup> grade. Sign up to take the first of the College Board Assessments to set a baseline. This test will help you build up your skills to take the SAT in 11<sup>th</sup> and/or 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **SAVE FOR COLLEGE**

- It's never too early to put money aside for college. Every little bit helps!
- Learning about financial aid early on can also help you down the road.

### **LEARN ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Most scholarship opportunities are reserved for Seniors, however, it isn't too soon to begin to educate yourself on scholarships now.

### **TIPS**

- ✓ DON'T Procrastinate
- ✓ JOIN the Google Classroom
- ✓ CREATE your plan and be okay changing it as you go.
- ✓ APPLY for Scholarships
- ✓ KEEP your grades up
- ✓ VOLUNTEER and participate in clubs
- ✓ MEET with your counselor
- ✓ VISIT the College and Career Center
- ✓ REACH OUT and ask for help! We are here for you!

**Your CHS Counselors and College and Career Advisors are always available to assist you. We can answer questions and help you navigate through high school and make a smooth transition to College, the Military or the Workforce.**