

## Sophomore 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 Sophomore Google Classroom** hosted by the College & Career Center.
- Create an email specific to your college inquiry/application, SAT/ACT testing and scholarship application process. This will help keep all of your related communications in one place- Ex. [sarajonesgoes2college@gmail.com](mailto:sarajonesgoes2college@gmail.com)
- Keep track of your accomplishments as you go. Create a file 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!

### **REVIEW YOUR FOUR YEAR HIGH SCHOOL PLAN – *What are the next steps to meet your goals?***

- Continue to investigate the types of jobs that might interest you.
- Identify your likes and dislikes in not just classes and school, but also in everyday life.
- Explore summer opportunities. Look for a job, internship, or volunteer position that will help you learn about your interest.
- Talk to other people, such as your school counselor, teachers and recent college graduates who are working professionals in the community, etc., about careers you might find interesting.
- Use Career Exploration tools to find your calling; Self-assessment testing, job shadowing, summer jobs, online research, workplace tours/visits, get an adult mentor, Career Day.

### **MEET WITH YOUR COUNSELOR AGAIN**

- Evaluate your course load for graduation and make sure it matches you post high school plans.
- Are you taking the right classes for your college/career of choice? Does EVIT enrollment align with you career path?
- Use this time to reassess your goals for your future.

### **THINK ABOUT YOUR COLLEGE OPTIONS**

- Where do you want to go (in state, out of state)? What schools have your area of study? Do you want to start at community college or Four year?
- Visit in-person or take Virtual tours for any colleges you might be interested in.
- Follow your top choices on social media/YouTube to get a feel for the campus environment, activities and community
- Finding the right “fit” is really important—your “dream” school may not always turn out to be the best fit for you—do your research!

### **PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- Academics aren't everything about high school – have you looked into joining an athletic team, music, drama, or school club? Colleges enjoy seeing active consistent participation in extracurricular activities.
- If you're 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).
- Investigate summer enrichment programs offered at different colleges. Arizona schools have many opportunities.

### **TAKE THE PSAT/NMSQT**

- Normally in October or PSAT 10 in February/March
- Provides valuable feedback on your college readiness and area for study focus for the SAT and/or ACT.

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

- Staying engaged the CACC will help guide you to selecting a school or career areas of interest.
- Take advantage of weekly college/university and professional speakers in the Center.
- Attend the College Fair and the Career Fair.
- Research Colleges, Universities, Trade Schools, Careers and Military options.

## **SAVE FOR COLLEGE** – *It's never too early to save for College. Every little bit helps!*

- Learn about financial aid early to be prepared down the road.
- Don't wait until you senior year for scholarship opportunities – YOU CAN START NOW!
  - [Raiseme.com](http://Raiseme.com) and [College Board Scholarships](http://College Board Scholarships) both enable you to earn scholarships throughout high school for doing all the things that will best prepare you to succeed. Whether that's getting good grades, volunteering in the community or joining an extracurricular. Sign in and log your actions.
  - Most scholarship opportunities are reserved for Seniors, however, [GoingMerry.com](http://GoingMerry.com) has a variety of scholarships you may research. Be sure to carefully read the eligibility requirements to see if you are eligible to apply.

## **TIPS**

- ✓ DON'T Procrastinate
- ✓ JOIN the Google Classroom
- ✓ CREATE your plan (it's ok, you can make changes as you go)
- ✓ KEEP your grades UP
- ✓ VOLUNTEER your time
- ✓ PARTICIPATE in activities
- ✓ MEET with your Counselor
- ✓ VISIT the College & Career Center
- ✓ APPLY for Scholarships
- ✓ REACH OUT if you need HELP!

**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.**