

COLLEGE PLANNING STRATEGIES FOR GRADE 10

1. Take academics seriously. Challenge yourself. A good grade in an academic class is more impressive for college admission than an A in PE. Many colleges will eliminate your non-academic classes when calculating your high school GPA.
2. Choose extracurricular activities that you plan to stick with. Colleges look more favorably on someone who has done band for four years or been in the same club for three or four years rather than a student who has been in Key Club for one year, Art Club for one year and chorus for a year. A long, shallow list of extracurricular activities is not meaningful.
3. Take the PSAT which will help you prepare for the SAT I. There are no consequences to doing poorly. The test is given in October. Remember that you must take the PSAT again as a junior in order to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program.
4. Consider taking the SAT II. These tests may be taken as juniors and seniors as well but if you really did well in a class, like biology ,consider taking the test while the material is fresh in your mind. Registration info is at www.collegeboard.com
5. Visit colleges. There's a lot less pressure in your sophomore year. Become familiar with the general admission requirements for the colleges that interest you.
6. Read, read, read. The more you read, the stronger your verbal, critical reading , and writing skills will be.
7. Make good use of the summer. Consider volunteer work, a summer enrichment program, working as an intern, or working in the family business, but do something. Consider your passions and try to plan your summer around them.
8. Your academic record is critical to college admission. Work on time management, organization and self-discipline
9. Take some time to visit our website (www.shrhs.org) and become familiar with the college and career search sites that are available there.
10. Familiarize yourself with the Common Application (www.commonapp.org) so that you know exactly what kind of information you're going to need when you apply to college.