

Freshmen Year Planning Guide

Summer Before High School:

- If on vacation and near a college campus, go sneak a peek at what one looks like to start getting excited about college. Also get a feel for the size of the campus.
- Get facts about what college costs.
- Continue to explore career ideas.
- Read, read, and read. If not already a habit, get in the habit of reading each day.

Fall:

- Set goals for the school year. Working towards a specific goal helps you stay motivated and focused.
- Strive to establish a high grade point average (GPA). It is a lot easier to maintain a strong GPA than to try to raise a weaker GPA. Your grades go on a transcript. Your transcript follows you forever!
- Get involved!!! Join an extra-curricular – a sport, a club, or an organization outside of school. Look for leadership opportunities in these activities. You don't have to be president or captain of the sport or club; there are other ways to be a leader. Lead by example!
- Consider volunteering for an organization that interests you.
- Actively participate in class – contribute to class discussions and ask questions when needed.
- Do your homework and develop strong study habits. See your teachers or counselor if needed.
- Explore colleges and careers on Ohio Means Jobs.
- Start a file of important information that will be useful when applying for college or a job, such as: test scores, honors and awards, leadership positions held, extra-curricular activities, work experience, community service and meaningful essays written in a class that could be used for a college application essay.

Winter:

- Continue to work on your study habits and complete all homework.
- Start thinking about financial aid and researching it. You can use any online calculator for college financial aid. If you are planning on attending college, it's not too early to look into types of aid that could help you cover college costs.
- Begin to think about next year's schedule.

Spring:

- Start a college and/or career list. And, begin to decide what matters most when choosing a college or career.
- Make purposeful summer plans. Maybe try to volunteer work or get involved in activities that help you explore your interests or teach a new skill.

Summer after Freshmen Year:

- If on vacation and near a college campus, consider stopping for a visit. Walk around and notice what you like and what you don't like.
 - Continue to explore career ideas and college ideas.
 - Continue to read, read, and read.
 - Consider starting to do some light prep for ACT and SAT – maybe go to the ACT or SAT website for the question of the day and practice tests.
 - Try a new volunteer activity. Log your activities.
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Sophomore Year Planning Guide

Summer after Freshmen Year:

- If on vacation and near a college campus, consider stopping for a visit. Walk around and notice what you like and what you don't like.
- Continue to explore career ideas and college ideas.
- Continue to read, read, and read.
- Consider starting to do some light prep for ACT and SAT – maybe go to the ACT or SAT website for the question of the day and practice tests.
- Try a new volunteer activity. Log your activities.

Fall:

- Continue to work on your study skills. Consult with teachers regarding the most effective way to study for each class.
- Take the PLAN test (Pre-ACT).
- Be involved here at JCHS. Continue with your extra-curricular activities and try something new.
- Continue to seek leadership opportunities.
- Actively participate in class – contribute to class discussions and ask questions.
- Consider attending the National College Fair usually in October, in Cincinnati.
- If you have an I.E.P, then you should meet with your counselor to discuss the possibilities of accommodations on the ACT/SAT. You should also discuss the possibilities of receiving assistance in college.

Spring:

- Reflect on the results of the career surveys we do in class. Possibly pursue more research in that area.
- Explore different colleges on OCIS, vacations, camps, etc.
- Get a copy of your transcript from your counselor and begin to form a list of realistic colleges.
- Think about realistic worthwhile summer activities.
- If you are considering being a college athlete, research the requirements on the NCAA Clearinghouse website. At the end of your junior year, you may want to register with them (there is a fee), and then request your transcript be sent in June.
- Continue researching your career choices and the educational requirements of each using OCIS.
- Refine your planned high school program of studies following your 4 year plan.
- Check to make sure you are on schedule to meet the entrance requirements of the type of college you want to attend.
- Think about your reasons for going to college (if that is your plan). What are your goals?

Summer after Sophomore Year:

- Volunteer and participate in worthwhile activities. Log your hours.
- Visit colleges while on vacation.