

COLLEGE/CAREER PLANNING FOR 9TH GRADERS

There are some steps you can take as a 9th grader to make sure you're on the right track for college. Here's a list to help you navigate the college/career planning process.

- 1. Create a four-year high school plan.** Think about what you'd like to accomplish in the next four years.
 - a. Make sure you know what high school courses are required by colleges, and that you're taking the right classes as early as ninth grade.
 - b. Get to know the levels of courses offered by your school- look into the High School Program of Studies.

- 2. Start thinking about your life after school, including the types of jobs that might interest you.**
 - a. Of course these will change-often-but it's good to start thinking about the possibilities.
 - b. Identify your interests- likes and dislikes- not just in classes but in all areas. This will help you focus on your goals.
 - c. Talk to other people about careers you might find interesting. (School Counselor, teachers, recent college graduates who are working, professionals in your community, etc.)

- 3. Participate in extracurricular activities. *******
 - a. **ACADEMICS ARE NOT ENOUGH!!!** Explore your interests in a sport, school club, music or drama group, or community volunteer activity.
 - b. Remember that colleges would rather see real involvement in one activity than a loose connection to several of them.

- 4. Explore summer opportunities.**
 - a. Look for a job, internship or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest.

