

# Get Ready.....

## Freshman and Sophomore Year Timeline

---



### **Freshman and Sophomore Year**

Welcome to high school! There are some very important steps you can take as a ninth and tenth grader to make sure you are on the right track to college. The focus on the early years of high school need to be on setting a solid academic and extracurricular record! The most essential piece in this process is learning to BALANCE all of your commitments while maintaining a healthy sense of well being. Think about the people you want on your team: parents, teachers, counselors, and advisors. Get ready.....set.....GO!

# Get Ready.....

## Freshman and Sophomore Year Timeline

---

### Create a personalized four-year high school plan.

- Make sure you know which high school courses are required by colleges, and that you're taking the right classes as early as ninth grade.
- Consult teachers and your counselor about what courses are right for you! We encourage a **balanced**, well researched schedule in order for students to make sure that their academic career starts out strong.
- This is a foundational year and should be used to develop strong advocacy and study skills!

### Participate in extracurricular activities.

- Explore your interest in a sport, school club, music or drama group, or community volunteer activity.
- Colleges and universities are looking for an *in-depth commitment* to an activity/organization rather than a 'list' of activities.
- 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.

### Visit the [Naviance](#) website to research colleges and careers.

User Name: grad yr. last name\_first name (18smith\_john)

Password: student id number

### Consider taking the PSAT (preliminary SAT). (Fall)

- Although the test is usually given in 11th grade, it is also offered to students in 8th, 9th, and 10th. It provides valuable feedback through the student score report on academic strengths and weakness.

### Attend college fairs.

- The largest college fair in the area is the [Columbus Suburban College Fair](#). This is an opportunity to speak with college admission representative from all over the country. This college fair typically takes place in September.

### Tour college campuses.

- If possible, take advantage of family vacations or other travel time to visit colleges and see what they are like. Even if you have no interest in attending the college you are visiting, it will help you learn what to look for in a college.

# Get Ready.....

## Freshman and Sophomore Year Timeline

---

### **Military Academies**

- If you have an interest in any of the military academies begin researching about the application process. Be mindful that the application process starts in the 11th grade year.

**Organize a family plan to explore [paying for college](#).**

### **Explore summer opportunities.**

- Consider participating in a special summer program, employment, or a volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest.