

# 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

## COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE



### PICK THE RIGHT MIX OF CLASSES

Make sure you're enrolled in the appropriate **college-prep** or **tech-prep** classes and that you're taking key core requirements, such as English, math, science, history, and a foreign language.



### GET INVOLVED

**Extracurricular activities** are an important part of high school, but don't try to do every club, sport, or activity offered. Devote time to pursuing a few interests that you're passionate about. College admissions officers want a well-rounded student population, not a class of students who do a little of everything, but nothing well.



### MAKE THE GRADE

Grades are the thing, perhaps the most important thing. Getting off to a good start is a heck of a lot easier than digging yourself out of a hole. Although college seems like a long way off right now, freshman grades contribute to your overall GPA, a very important component of college admission and scholarships.



### CONSIDER A COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN

Talk to your parents about planning for college expenses. If your family already has a **savings plan**, like a 529 plan, continue to add to it. If not, now is a great time to start saving for college.



### MEET YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

As soon as you can, set up a meeting to talk about your plans for high school and the future. This is the perfect chance to get your questions answered about what you need to do and how to set the best foundation for continued education after high school.



### MAKE SUMMER COUNT

There are plenty of ways to have fun and build your credentials during the summer, such as volunteering, getting a job, or signing up for an enrichment program.



### BUILD YOUR CREDENTIALS

Keep track of academic and extracurricular awards, community service achievements, and anything else you participate in, so it'll be easier to remember later. This will come in handy when you're filling out college applications or creating a resume.