

FRESHMAN CHECKLIST

Over the next four years, make the most out of your BHS experience - study, join clubs, get involved in athletics and socialize. High school will give you the opportunity to figure out who you want to be and where you want to go... Your teachers might tell you that the road to college is paved with good grades, and that is true. But that road is also paved with a lot of paperwork and little tasks that are best completed way before it's time to exit high school. If you don't believe it, take a look at all the things that you've got to get going on if your future includes college. It's a long list, but a little advance planning and goal-setting can keep you from becoming one of those high school seniors who is frantically trying to get things done the month before graduation.

- ✓ Start thinking about what careers interest you most (as if you haven't been thinking about it most of your life!). Log on to MCIS and do the surveys, quizzes and inventories. Then save your results in your portfolio. If you need your log-in information contact your counselor.
- ✓ Talk to your family and acquaintances about their chosen careers. Do they like what they do? More importantly, do you like what they do? Check out MCIS. You have the information your guidance counselor gave you. If not, stop in and pick up another copy.
- ✓ Consider taking the most challenging courses offered at your school. No... we're not kidding - not only are your grades important, so are the classes you take. Do at least one hour of homework every night.
- ✓ Think about your extra-curricular activities. Are you getting involved? If not, participate in student government, join the choir or debate team, or try out for athletics. College admissions officers and scholarship committees will factor in these activities when evaluating your application.
- ✓ Your counselor will be giving you information about essay contests, speech contests, and other events that you can enter to get scholarships and awards.
- ✓ Create a resume' file in your MCIS portfolio, saving such items as report cards, diplomas and certificates; a list of awards and honors you receive; a list of all school and community activities you take part in; a list of offices you hold in organizations; and a list of volunteer or paid jobs you hold. Update your portfolio every semester.
- ✓ Take another look at the Career Pathways on the BHS website to help you decide what classes you need to take in high school based on your career interests.
- ✓ It's time to talk finances. A college education is expensive (though worth every penny!). A summer job will give you extra cash for college and help you develop skills. Start saving now!
- ✓ Spend some time in the guidance office. Get to know your counselor, they have lots of resources and recommendations for you to explore.

- ✓ Our school has “college track,” or “rigorous core” classes that meet college admissions requirements. If college is in your plans, it’s time to get on that track. Your guidance counselor can help.
- ✓ Be ambitious and take tough classes, like algebra and foreign language, early. Flexing your brain now will help you prepare for the academic challenges of college.
- ✓ Don’t slack in the grade department. Freshman and sophomore grades form the foundation of your GPA, which is a factor in college admissions and scholarship awards.
- ✓ Talk with your parents about your college goals and the cost of those goals, and then visit websites and read information about different colleges, financial aid and scholarships.
- ✓ Begin visiting local community colleges, state universities or private colleges with your family and friends. Prior to your visit, call the admission office for information about a campus tour.
- ✓ Over the summer, take part in academic enrichment programs and special summer workshops for music, science, engineering, writing, theater, language and other subjects that interest you.