

High School Checklist

9th Grade (Freshmen)

1	Attend ninth grade orientation, review class schedule and be sure you understand it. Develop an understanding of: a) graduation requirements, b) athletic eligibility requirements, c) college/career program requirements, d) PSAT, HSPA, SAT, AP, state tests, e) community service requirements.	
2	Make a four-year high school plan with parent/guardian/teacher/guidance counselor. Take challenging academic courses that will qualify you to take future Honors and AP courses.	
3	Learn study/time management skills. Use a daily planner. (JumpStart provides one!)	
4	Be serious about your grades and courses; most count for college entrance.	
5	Take the PSAT.	
6	Participate in extracurricular activities and/or get involved in community activities to provide background experience for college acceptance. (Play a sport, join clubs; volunteer at a library, school, hospital, etc.)	
7	Memorize your Social Security Number.	
8	Think about career area(s); investigate colleges.	
9	Read three challenging books not assigned for school.	
10	Download "The Common Application" for college and use it to help you plan what you should be doing during your four years to get into college.	

10th Grade (Sophomores)

1	Participate in extracurricular activities and/or get involved in community activities to provide background experience for college acceptance. (Play a sport, join/maintain membership in clubs; volunteer in politics or hospital, etc.)	
2	Take the PSAT.	
3	Identify 10 goals to accomplish this year.	
4	Take challenging academic courses. Find out what AP courses Juniors traditionally take and ask how to qualify.	
5	Think about career area(s); investigate colleges.	
6	Read three challenging books not assigned for school.	
7	Be serious about your grades and courses. They count for GPA, college entrance, class ranking and many scholarships.	
8	Rethink, recheck your four-year high school plan with parent/guardian/teacher/guidance counselor. Take college-prep classes. Take courses that will enable you to meet prerequisites for additional courses.	
9	Talk with your counselor, as needed.	
10	Find a teacher/mentor to help you identify opportunities.	
11	Plan to participate in a summer program related to your field of interest or find a summer job/internship that will improve your skills.	

11th Grade (Juniors)

1	Take the PSAT in October. Take the HSPA in March.	
2	Plan to participate in leadership in your sport(s) and extracurricular activities. Maintain membership in the activities you choose to participate in. Remember it is quality not quantity!	
3	Identify 10 goals to accomplish this year.	
4	Take challenging academic courses. Take at least one AP course.	
5	Attend a College Fair.	
6	Take AP exams, if appropriate.	
7	Rethink, recheck you four-year high school plan with parent/guardian, teachers and counselor.	
8	Take the SAT I, SAT II and/or ACT (college admissions tests) in the spring. Take preparation class, if needed.	
9	Keep your GPA up all year. Junior year grades at the most important!	
10	Read three challenging books not assigned for school.	
11	Read college catalogues; write to colleges for information. Attend scheduled college admissions conferences or college fairs. Begin reviewing scholarships. Visit college campuses, while in session.	
12	Be practical! Look at your top five college choices and ask: Do I qualify? Can I afford the school? Do I need to schedule an interview? Have I talked with students who now attend the college? Does the school offer my major? Does the school's housing meet my needs? Does the social life fit my style? Have I seen the campus? What are the summer opportunities regarding honors programs, work, study, etc.?	
13	Plan to participate in a summer program related to your field of interest or find a summer job/internship that will improve your skills.	

12th Grade (Seniors)

1	Take college required courses, preferably two AP classes.	
2	Take or retake the SAT I and/or ACT, and SAT II, if appropriate.	
3	Attend College Fair and Financial Aid workshop at McNair.	
4	Narrow down your college choices. Confer with your counselor. Finalize 1st, 2nd, 3rd, choices for college. The average number of colleges students apply to is 4-6 schools.	
5	Send in college application(s); write out autobiographical sketch. Finalize college essays.	
6	Obtain teacher/counselor references in advance.	
7	Check scholarship lists. Apply.	
8	Obtain and submit college applications.	
9	Check transcript with your counselor. Request counselor to send transcript to your college.	
10	Obtain and submit FAFSA Form for financial aid. Urge your parents/guardians to fill out taxes in January. You cannot file for financial aid without your parents filing their taxes. You may also need to submit the CSS Profile through www.collegeboard.com .	
11	Submit photocopies of your acceptance letters to the guidance office.	
12	Visit college campuses before making final decisions of where to attend.	
13	Write "Thank You" notes to teachers and others who helped you with essays, recommendation letters, etc. Notify them which colleges you were accepted to.	
14	Submit your decision and deposit to the college you will be attending by the May 1 st deadline.	
15	Attend Orientation Program hosted at your college.	

Good Luck in your transition as a college student!