

August 20, 2018

Dear Freshman Parent/Guardian:

This letter is designed to help make the transition to high school a smooth process and to share information that will be helpful to your freshman student as he/she begins their educational career at Columbia High School.

First, because of the new graduation requirements with an endorsement, it is extremely important that you sit down with your student and make a four-year plan. Many of you have already taken care of this task, but should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call or make an appointment so we can have the four-year plan in place as soon as possible. A student must earn 6 credits in their freshman year to advance to the 10th grade.

Next, ask your freshman each nine weeks for his/her report card. If you are not getting report cards or progress reports, contact me in the high school guidance office. If you have questions regarding grades, please contact his/her individual teacher. You will need Skyward Parent access to do this. If you do not have access, please pick up a Parent Access form from the high school office. Also, do not forget that Chromebooks are available for your student if you would like to take advantage of that opportunity. Contact Stephanie Hulbert at our campus.

If your student is planning to attend a four year institutions directly out of high school, part of the admissions process is taking a college entrance exam. To help prepare students for the exam, freshman have to opportunity to take the Preliminary SAT practice test. It has the same format as the SAT, and serves as a rough predictor for SAT performance. Check with the guidance office for the testing date. The cost is approximately \$15.

Getting off to a good start is one of the most important aspects of their freshman year. This includes keeping up with assignments and getting them turned in on time. If your student is having problems with organization or time management, I suggest a personal planner.

Finally, we would like you to be aware of the state testing requirements beginning with the graduating class of 2015. Five STAAR tests will have to be passed in order to graduate. Those include English 1, English 2, Biology, Algebra 1 and US History. If these tests are not passed successfully on the first attempt, students will have the opportunity to retest until they have successfully passed all five tests.

This is an exciting time for your student and his/her high school career will fly by! Enjoy these next four years and let us know if we can help you in any way.

Kristie Kucera
CHS 9th/10th Counselor
345-5147 ext. 2017