

# Checklist for Freshman

## September

- Discuss your future with parents, teachers and other caring adults.
- Get in the habit of **READING A LOT** (magazines, newspapers, books, homework—try to read 35 pages each day)!
- Take the Learning Styles Inventory Test. Go to [www.howtolearn.com](http://www.howtolearn.com) to understand your best learning style.
- Get to know your guidance counselor in your school.

**It's not too early to start!  
Plan for College NOW!**

### SOME HELPFUL TIPS

- Post this checklist in your locker.
- Review on the last day of each month to check off progress.

## October – November

- Explore/Plan Testing (be sure to do your best!)
- Fall Online College and Financial Aid Labs begin (attend any one of the computer labs around the city to learn about colleges, scholarships, careers, and more!)
- Participate in college/career awareness programs offered by the Department of Postsecondary Education (college tours, workshops, college fairs, etc.).
- Summer Quest Application Deadline (November) Participate in one of the many activities such as: climbing mountains in Colorado, designing web pages at Illinois State University or taking classes at Miami University.
- Use Choices Planner to identify your interests, abilities and possible careers. Find out which educational programs will help you achieve your goals after high school.
- Apply for summer learning/service/employment opportunities that match your career interests and postsecondary goals (Summer Quest, internships, etc.).
- Seek tutorial/enrichment support to excel in classes (ex. study skills, test-taking, and writing workshops).

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

Use Choices Planner – see your counselor to log on

[www.mapping-your-future.org](http://www.mapping-your-future.org)  
[www.adventuresineducation.org](http://www.adventuresineducation.org)  
[www.collegezone.com](http://www.collegezone.com)

## January

- Spring Online College and Financial Aid Labs begin
- Don't forget that you need a minimum of 10 Service Learning hours per year. You can tutor, or volunteer at church, libraries or park districts.
- Meet with counselor to discuss your EXPLORE test results and your academic performance, strategies, and goals.
- You are talented and smart! Choose an extracurricular activity that you can commit to for at least 2 years.

## February – May

- Meet with your counselor to plan sophomore courses. Take the most challenging options available to you (honors, AP, and virtual high school).
- Attend workshops on college admissions requirements and financial aid.
- Talk to your parents about how much money they can contribute to your college tuition. Work together to establish a savings plan that you can participate in.
- Apply for a social security number if you don't already have one. If you are unable to obtain one, meet with your counselor and/or postsecondary education staff person.

**OHSP**

Office of High School Programs

**POSTSECONDARY  
EDUCATION AND  
STUDENT DEVELOPMENT**  
COLLEGE IS POSSIBLE. CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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