

Tips for the College Bound Sophomore

Getting prepared for college begins with developing good habits early in high school. While a strong academic record is key, exploring and developing interests in and out of the classroom is just as important at this stage. Sophomores should explore athletic teams, clubs, and community service organizations at this time as they discover their strengths and weaknesses.

To succeed academically, a good student must pay close attention at school and ask for help when needed. Time management is crucial in learning to balance schoolwork with other interests, and students should work closely with parents, teachers, and counselors to develop these skills and other healthy personal habits like eating right and getting enough sleep.

Colleges are interested in students who are interesting, active, and thoughtful. At your Great Hearts academy, formal college planning workshops and seminars begin with the junior year but here are some specifics for you to keep in mind during the second year of high school:

- Study hard and get excellent grades. Colleges assess how well you perform in an academically rigorous curriculum.
- Stay out of trouble. All suspensions are reported to colleges to which apply.
- October —PSAT—a practice exam for the SAT (The one that counts is in your junior year). Meet with your college counselor to discuss your results.
- Get involved in co-curricular activities—but remember it's the level of involvement and accomplishments—not the number or activities.
- Keep a record of all awards, achievements, honors, and activities.
- Participate in community service opportunities—this can open up doors to numerous scholarship opportunities.
- Use Naviance to research universities and careers—and set up a meeting with your College Counselor to discuss your findings.
- Meet with your College Counselor to discuss SAT Subject Tests. Typically, students take these in the junior year; however it might be appropriate to take these in May or June of your sophomore year. *Practice through your Naviance account software: PREPME.*
- Make your summer productive—take enrichment courses, attend summer camps or workshops, or volunteer.