

## Tips for the College Bound Freshman

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. Freshmen 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 first year of high school:

- Study hard and get excellent grades. All high school grades appear on your transcript and are calculated into your grade point average.
- Stay out of trouble. All suspensions are reported to colleges to which apply.
- Read! Our Great Books curriculum offers you the opportunity to explore some of the greatest literature ever written and reading will increase your vocabulary. Even out of school continue to read for pleasure.
- Join clubs and sports—and consider leadership positions. High school is the time to discover new interests or strengthen the ones you already have.
- Schedule a meeting with your College Counselor. He or she might be one of your greatest advocates when it comes time to apply to colleges.
- Ask your College Counselor for your Naviance login information. Then browse college literature/surf the web to get an idea of schools that might interest you. Keep a list of schools handy to share with your College Counselor.
- Keep an academic portfolio and co-curricular record. Write down every award, honor, activity, and leadership position you hold. These are crucial elements to many scholarship and college applications.
- Research career possibilities.
- Begin saving money for college.
- Aspire 9 is taken in freshman year, and the PSAT exam is taken in both your sophomore and junior year. The Aspire is a preliminary ACT; the PSAT is the preliminary SAT. Performing well in school is your best preparation for these tests at this point. *Practice through your Naviance account software: PREPME.*