

# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Planning Timeline

- Now that you're in 9th grade, it's time to get serious about your post-secondary plans. By starting early, you'll be better prepared.
- Your grades appear on official transcripts starting this year, so if you haven't already started doing so, it's time to take stock. If you have particularly strong academic interests, continue to focus on them but don't lose focus on strengthening areas of weakness that can't be ignored, such as English or algebra.
- Don't neglect your study habits! Keep up the good work, and continue to improve your study skills.

## September/October

### Get Involved

The initial weeks of high school can be a difficult adjustment, socially and academically. Keep an open dialogue about how classes are going with your parents. If you are struggling, now is the time to get a handle on it. Similarly, you may want to talk to the school about being placed in a more advanced class if the work seems too easy.

- Find out about AP and Honors-level courses

### Explore

As classes progress, encourage involvement in meaningful activities in and out of school. Feel out what they're comfortable with and how much time they can dedicate without impacting schoolwork negatively.

- Use Your Plan of Study at [www.scois.net](http://www.scois.net) to keep track of your Career and College explorations.

Find out about college entrance requirements for the schools you're interested in.

### Heap on the Praise

Keep an activities record that lists participation in activities as well as accomplishments, awards, and leadership positions.

## January

### Seek Out Support

Keep up regular conversations with your parents and teachers about your academic progress.

Grades should be up to par and course levels appropriate. If not, perhaps you could use your help in establishing better study habits or creating a better study environment.

### **Motivate Yourself**

Develop an improvement plan with your teachers, guidance counselor, and parents if you are struggling and remember that the best motivation is encouragement.

### **Remain Open to Change**

One of the points of high school is for students to explore their interests. Determine if you are enjoying what they're doing, and if any changes need to be made.

- Talk to your school counselors, teachers, family members or trusted adults about your plans for college. If you're not sure if college is the best option for you, talk to your counselor.
- Create a file of the following documents and notes in Resume Format: report cards, lists of awards and honors, school and community activities, and volunteer work.

## **May/June**

### **Look to the Future**

Review and evaluate the comprehensive academic program and activities record started earlier in the school year, make any necessary changes, and update accordingly.

### **Hit the Books**

As summer approaches, develop a summer reading list that will help with the academic transition to 10th grade, and finalize any summer plans that were in development.

### **Think Summer**

Start thinking about worthwhile summer plans such as a job, volunteer work, or traveling to build a resume. Summer is a great time to begin exploring interests that tie in with college or career goals.

Create a file of the following documents and notes in Resume Format: report cards, lists of awards and honors, school and community activities, and volunteer work.

Start thinking about the colleges you want to attend.

- College life can be a big change — you're on your own! Try taking some small steps towards independence this year, perhaps with more responsibility in course selections, communication with teachers and parents and go as far as more responsible around your house and community.