

## High School Planning Guide

### 9<sup>th</sup> grade:

- Create a four-year high school plan with the school counselor.
- Map out courses that should be taken to fully prepare for college.
- Begin to develop good study and work habits. Always follow teacher directions and complete assignments on time. These “work attitudes” will serve you well throughout high school and college!
- Always seek out your teacher(s) when you don’t understand the lesson, homework assignments, etc. Teachers truly appreciate students who take the initiative!!
- Attend local college fairs as announced by the school counselor.
- Begin college and scholarship searches and participate in any age-appropriate scholarship competitions, such as essay contests (see counselor’s *Guidance News* on the HGBCS Guidance web page).
- Begin to consider career options, identifying strong interests as well as likes and dislikes.
- Become involved in school, church, and communities activities.
- Assume a leadership position when the opportunity arises. Leadership successes will be important to future college and scholarship opportunities.
- Take the PSAT in the Fall for practice. This is required of all 9<sup>th</sup> graders for future tests such as the SAT and the ACT.
- Meet with the school counselor in the spring to discuss next year’s course of study.

### 10<sup>th</sup> grade:

- Review four-year plan with the school counselor to insure 9<sup>th</sup> grade objectives were met.
- Continue attending local college fairs as announced by the school counselor.
- Continue to work diligently and strive for excellence in all subjects.
- Continue college scholarship search and visit *Guidance News* for age-appropriate announcements – apply for any grade level opportunities.
- Continue researching career options with assistance from the school counselor.
- Become an active participant in a club, not just membership.
- Strive for leadership positions within service, club, or athletic organizations.
- Take the PSAT again in the Fall for practice. Again, this is required of all 10<sup>th</sup> graders for future tests such as the SAT and the ACT.
- Meet again with the school counselor in the spring to discuss next year’s course of study.

### 11<sup>th</sup> grade:

- Continue reviewing your course of study with the school counselor to insure being on track for graduation/college admission. Keep grades up all year long!
- Continue attending local college fairs as announced by the school counselor.
- Meet with college representatives as they visit HGBCS throughout the year.
- Begin in earnest to investigate college scholarship/financial aid opportunities – apply when appropriate.
- Begin meeting with the school counselor (parents are welcome too!) to learn more about colleges in our area, the state, and/or outside-of-state.
- Continue investigating career options – Consider *Career In\*Sight* for a thorough examination of your God-given aptitudes and career interests.
- Continue participation and leadership roles in various school, church, and community organizations.
- Take the PSAT again in the Fall to become eligible for The National Merit Scholarship Competition. Students qualify for this competition in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade only. All juniors are required to take the test.
- Take the SAT (The Scholastic Aptitude Test) in the winter of this year. Follow in late spring/early summer with another SAT or an ACT (American College Testing program).
- Create a resume (see the school counselor for various formats).
- Begin college visits during the spring semester of this year.
- Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse at the end of this year if you plan to participate in Division I or II collegiate athletics.
- Meet with the school counselor in the spring to discuss senior year courses and graduation requirements.

12<sup>th</sup> grade:

- Initiate a parent/senior conference with the school counselor to discuss senior year courses, college/career plans, scholarship opportunities, etc.
- Attend local college fairs if still undecided about future college opportunities.
- Consider *Career In\*Sight* for a thorough examination of your God-given aptitudes and interests.
- If displeased with your junior year College Board test scores (SAT and/or ACT), register for the earliest fall test date.
- Complete college visits during the summer or early fall to determine your top choice(s). Seek God's will for the "best fit" for you and your future.
- Start your college application process in early fall of this year (most colleges are on "rolling admissions" or stipulate application/notification deadlines in the fall).
- Be very careful about making an "early decision" for any college unless you believe God is calling you to that school once admitted. An early admission decision is always binding!
- See the school counselor regularly to complete "transcript requests" as college applications/scholarship applications are mailed or submitted electronically.
- No "senioritis" please! Accepting colleges do look at second-semester grades when final transcripts are mailed in June after graduation (Colleges do reserve the right to change their decisions!).
- Actively pursue scholarships and financial aid opportunities throughout the year. The *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) should be completed and filed between January 1 and March 15 of this year. Applications and/or electronic submission worksheets are available in the HGBCS Guidance Office.
- Seniors are encouraged to maintain active involvement in school functions. Colleges (and private scholarship sponsors too) are especially interested in your leadership and community service accomplishments.
- By May 1, colleges will expect to hear about your decision to accept or to decline on their admission offer. Usually a room deposit "seals the deal" at that time or preferably earlier than May 1. Send a "thank you note" to college(s) that admitted you. See the guidance counselor if you're not sure what the college expects.
- After graduation, ask the school counselor to send a final transcript to the college you plan to attend. Also, ask the counselor to send your final transcript to the NCAA if you plan to participate in Division I or II athletics in college.