



9th Grade Check List



Fall (September – December)

- Make sure you have your 'Alumni 360 College Folder organized!
- Complete the 'Free and Reduced Lunch form EVERY year.
- Sign up for Hispanic Scholarship Fund (www.hsf.net) if you qualify
- Sign up for www.csumentor.edu to start an account and log in grades and scores through the semesters.
- Apply for SMASH Program for those interested in STEM. Apps due in November- www.lpfi.org/smash
- Sign up for scholarship search engines like:
 - Freetestprep.com, Fastweb.com - www.zinch.com - www.scholarships360.org

- Make an appointment to visit your **academic counselor** and introduce yourself:
 - Review your 4-year class schedule and a-g UC/CSU requirements.
 - **Ask**, "I am very interested in getting ready for college as soon as possible. May I get information about enrolling in advanced Honors classes to prepare for AP classes and programs that will help me reach my goal? Is there an Avid Program or a college readiness program?"
 - Learn when report cards come out and ask for progress updates.
 - **Ask** about the PSAT and if you are able to take it this year. Learn ways to practice and plan for these tests so you feel confident and prepared (freetestprep.com to study)
 - Receive information about fee waivers for the PSAT, SAT, and college admission applications (if you qualify)

- Make an appointment to visit your **college/career counselor** and introduce yourself:
 - **Ask**: Are you aware of any scholarships available to ninth graders?
 - **Ask**: Are there any local college fairs and financial aid workshops coming up this fall?
 - **Ask**: Do you have a program where I can learn about other professions and the college degree they require?

- If you are an athlete and desire to do collegiate sports, look in to the NCAA requirements.

- During **Thanksgiving Break** Thinking Session
 - Visit Taft High School's College Corner (www.tafthigh.org) and click through the valuable resources on the right hand side.

- Use this time to apply for scholarships and/or get the essays or projects ready. Check deadlines and needed letters of recommendations.
- Think about joining or starting something, like a business, a club or a volunteer group that you can eventually lead. What are your interests?
- What type of college would you like to attend (large, small, public, private, etc)?

Winter Break

- This is the final stretch of schooling and these 4 years will fly by. Let's get on those scholarships and apply to as many as possible. Be sure to meet with your Alumni 360 Coach but also do essay drafts on your own time. At least 2-3 hours a day during this break! Stay focused!
- Do some volunteer work during the holidays. Can't find a group? Start your own! Contact your local community to volunteer for their holiday programs.

Winter (January – March)

- Talk to your parents about your strengths and weaknesses. Explore tutoring resources (ask your teacher and academic counselor for information).
- Enroll in honors courses for subjects at which you are doing well in.
- Look at the clubs offered and get involved in the ones that interest you.

Spring (April – June)

- Use some time to research careers and to learn more about yourself and your passions! Go to www.careerbridge.wa.gov to take a career quiz!
- Stay focused on doing well in school, studying and getting good grades. If you need help, talk to your teachers and academic counselor. They are there for YOU!
- Run for student government and/or take on leadership roles in clubs.

Summer (July – August)

- Consider working, volunteering and/or participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts or science. Remember it's QUALITY not QUANTITY that counts!
- Be aware of camps, college fairs & fieldtrips with Alumni 360 Scholar Program!