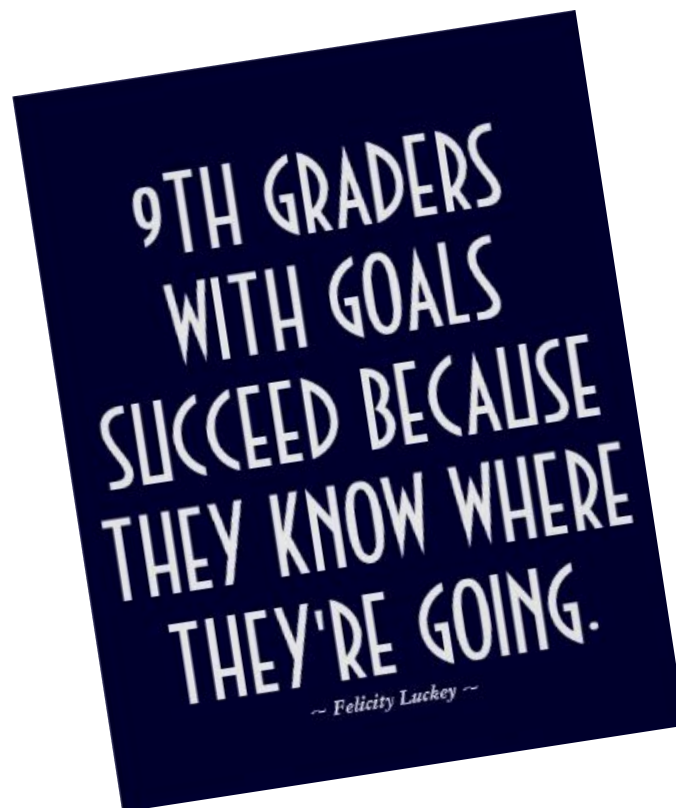


**A FRESHMAN GUIDE:
TO SURVIVING HIGH SCHOOL AND GETTING PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE
2016-2017**



**AGORA CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL
COUNSELING DEPARTMENT**

<http://agorahscounselors.weebly.com/>



WELCOME TO HIGH SCHOOL!

This Planning Guide is designed to help you to explore your post-high school options. The process is different for each student. Whether you are bound for college, technical school, military service, a year off, or a job, the information contained in these pages will make the decision-making process at this critical stage of your life a little easier. Use this booklet as a guide. Talk with your parents, counselor, teachers, and friends about future considerations.

You and your parents are encouraged to meet with your counselor, who will help you establish some direction in your planning. With you, your parents, and your counselor working together, the transition to your post-high school plans will be a rewarding experience.

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AUGUST, 2016

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AUGUST, 2016

August 22 - First Day for Staff
 August 22- September 2 - Staff Professional Development
 August 29 - September 2 - Teacher Meet-and-Greets

SEPTEMBER, 2016

September 5 - Labor Day (School and Administrative Offices Closed)
 September 6 - First Day of School for Students
 September 6 - 30 - Benchmark Window
 September 30 - Half-day for Students / PM Staff Professional Development

OCTOBER, 2016

October 3 - 4 Rosh Hashanah (School and Administrative Offices Closed)
 October 12 - Yom Kippur (School and Administrative Offices Closed)
 October 28 - Half-day for Students / PM Staff Professional Development

NOVEMBER, 2016

November 10 - Last Day of Grading Period
 November 11 - No School for Students / Staff Professional Development
 November 21 - 23 - Parent Teacher Conferences
 November 23 - Half-day Day for Students (Asynchronous)
 AM Staff Professional Development (Administrative Offices Closed PM)
 November 24 - 25 - Thanksgiving Holiday (School and Administrative Offices Closed)

DECEMBER, 2016

December 22 - Asynchronous Day for Students / Staff Professional Development
 December 23 - Half-day for Students (Asynchronous)
 AM Staff Professional Development (Administrative Offices Closed PM)
 December 26 - 31 - Winter Break; School and Administrative Offices Closed

JANUARY, 2017

January 2 - Winter Break; School and Administrative Offices Closed
 January 16 - Martin Luther King Day (School and Administrative Offices Closed)
 January 26 - Last Day of Grading Period
 January 27 - Asynchronous Day for Students / Staff Professional Development
 January 27 - February 10 - Benchmark Window

FEBRUARY, 2017

February 15 - 17 - Parent Teacher Conferences
 February 20 - Presidents' Day (School and Administrative Offices Closed)

MARCH, 2017

March 10 - Asynchronous Day for Students / Staff Professional Development
 March 30 - Asynchronous Day for Students / Staff Professional Development
 March 31 - Last Day of Grading Period

APRIL, 2017







April 10 - 14 - Spring Break (School Closed)
 April 3 - May 12 - PSSA Testing Window

MAY, 2017

May 1 - June 8 - Benchmark Window
 May 15 - 26 - Keystone Testing Window
 May 29 - Memorial Day (School and Administrative Offices Closed)

JUNE, 2017

June 7 - Last day for Seniors
 June 9 - Last Day of Grading Period
 June 12 - Half-day for Students
 June 13 - 16 - Staff Professional Development
 June 15 - Graduation
 June 16 - Last Day for Teachers

-  First and Last Day of School for Students
-  Last Day of Grading Period
-  Staff Professional Development, No School for Students
-  Staff Professional Development
Half-day 9/30, 10/28, 11/23, 12/23, 6/12
OR Asynchronous Day for Students
-  No School for Staff and Students
-  PSSA and Keystone Testing Windows

FRESHMAN CHECKLIST

AUGUST/ START OF COHORT

- Attend AND complete Orientation at the high school
- Take Needs Assessment survey during enrollment
- Establish goals for the year
- Send message to your teachers and introduce yourself!

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

- Consider extracurricular activities to get involved
- Keep up with all homework assignments – **use a planner!**
- Develop a plan to complete long term projects
- Meet with your counselor

YEARLONG TASKS

- Check and monitor grades for academic progress
- Plan to attend monthly guidance workshops
- Attend at least one virtual college presentation or career fair

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

- Take Keystone exams (if applicable)
- Review quarter 1 grades with teacher, parents and consult counselor with issues or concerns
- Be sure to seek out opportunities to get involved- clubs and activities

JANUARY

- Prepare for semester 1 finals
- Meet with teachers and attend help sessions
- Check schedule for semester 2 courses

FEBRUARY/MARCH

- Evaluate whether you are achieving your goals this year
- Prepare to participate in course selection process for 10th grade

APRIL

- Visit Guidance website (*PA Career Zone*) and start thinking about career fields that might interest you
- Check credits and grade promotion
- Contact local school district to register for the PSAT

MAY/JUNE

- Take Keystone exams (if applicable)
- Work with teachers to complete final/overdue assignments
- Prepare for end of the year and be sure to finish with good grades!
- Print final report card
- Remember, your **final** grades go on your transcript!!!



JULY/AUGUST

- Consider summer enrichment programs
- Participate in local community service opportunities

Check the Counseling website frequently for events and announcements!

<http://agorahscounselors.weebly.com/>

ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS

- **GRADE LEVEL DETERMINATION**

Grade level will be determined based on the number of EARNED credits:

- 9th Grade – 0 to 4.99
- 10th Grade – 5 to 10.99
- 11th Grade – 11 to 15.99
- 12th Grade – 16 +

Agora requires official documentation and records of all credits previously completed at other school districts in order for students to be eligible to graduate.

A minimum 22 credits must be earned prior to graduation to participate in graduation ceremonies.

- **CREDITS FOR GRADUATION**

Students must earn a minimum of 22 credits in the following content areas that are aligned to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards. Full year courses are worth 1 credit; semester courses are worth 0.5 credits.

Content	Credits Required
Mathematics	3
English	4
History and Social Sciences	3
Science	3
Humanities/ World Languages	2
Electives	5
Physical Education	1.5
Health	0.5

- **DUAL ENROLLMENT**

- Agora does not currently partner with any career and technical schools or allow dual enrollment in another academic program. Students enrolling with Agora are full-time Agora students. If you would like to pursue alternative or supplemental programs you would need to return to your home school district.

- **LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT**

- Although Agora does not require students to complete a world language prior to graduation, many colleges and universities recommend two years of a language prior to high school graduation (that's two years consecutively of the same language). Many students choose to take a third year of a language during their junior year. Keep in mind that most colleges require students to take a language in college as part of their elective requirements.

- **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

Pennsylvania Public School Code (24 P.S. § 17-1719-A- 14) requires that students be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities offered by their home school district, provided that they are not offered by Agora. Students must comply with policies and meet the specific eligibility criteria set forth by their home school district. Student athletes must also satisfy eligibility requirements established by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. Student members of a sports team with their home school district must continue to meet grade requirements to be part of the team. Coaches needing academic information from Agora must make a request in writing to the Head of School. Whenever possible, Agora will assist students and parents to secure the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities.

COLLEGE BOUND STUDENT COURSE SEQUENCING EXAMPLE

	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade	Credits
English	LAC 1	LAC 2	American Literature	British Literature	4
Math	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calc/ Trig	4
Science	Earth Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	4
History	World History	US History	Government/ Economics	Elective History	4
Humanities	Spanish I	Spanish II	Spanish III		3
PE	PE (.5)	PE (.5)		PE (.5)	1.5
Health	Skills for Health (.5)				.5
Electives	Computer Literacy (.5)	Digital Arts 1 (.5) Drivers Safety (.5)	Digital Arts 2 (.5) Family/ Consumer Science (.5) Intro to Music A (.5)	Nutrition/ Wellness (.5) Early Childhood Education (.5) Personal Finance(.5) Graduation Project (.5)	5
					<hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> 26*

**We recommend that college bound students earn between 24-27 credits. Most colleges, which require a high school transcript, like to see students' academic performance above the bare minimum number of courses/credits needed for graduation. Please review each particular school's credit requirements during your junior year before applying.*

CAREER BOUND STUDENT COURSE SEQUENCING EXAMPLE

	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade	Credits
English	LAC 1	LAC 2	American Literature	Elective English	4
Math	Algebra I	Geometry	Practical or Consumer Math		3
Science	Earth Science	Biology	Physical Science		3
History	World History	US History	Sociology		3
Humanities		Foundations of Art A (.5) Foundations of Art B (.5)	Introduction to Music A (.5) Introduction to Music B (.5)		2
PE	PE (.5)	PE (.5)	PE (.5)		1.5
Health	Skills for Health (.5)				.5
Electives	Computer Literacy (.5)		Digital Arts 1 (.5)	Family/ Consumer Science (.5) Music Appreciation Drivers Safety (.5) Digital Arts 2 (.5) Nutrition/ Wellness (.5) Personal Finance(.5) Graduation Project (.5)	5 <hr/> 22

GETTING STARTED

- I. Changes you will face
 - a. Physical
 - Schedule changes
 - Different classes with different students and grade levels
 - New staff – new teachers, possibly family coach
 - New rules and procedures
 - Getting into a routine
 - b. Emotional
 - Social Isolation – cyber environment
 - Balancing home vs. school responsibilities
 - Fear/anxiety/worry about not fitting in
 - Peer pressure
 - Friendships change
 - c. Academic
 - Transcripts – every grade counts
 - Higher expectations from teachers – homework, grading, and deadlines!
 - More classes, more choices, electives
 - Keystone testing replaces PSSAs
 - Start earning credits for graduation
 - No team approach
 - Meet with teachers for office hours
 - Actively participate from 8am-4pm

- II. Choices to make this year
 - a. Extracurricular – look to get involved in athletics and clubs through your home district
 - b. Elective Choices and Level Choices
 - Elective choices should tie into career aspirations
 - Level choices (i.e. Honors, AP) – performance based along with teacher recommendations
 - c. Personal Choices

- III. Challenges that may be coming
 - a. Academic
 - Course work
 - Mid-terms/Finals
 - Long-term projects/homework
 - Organization
 - Study skills – how to study; finding a technique
 - Prioritize homework
 - Communicate with teachers and plan to stay after class and attend office hours

GETTING STARTED (CONTINUED)

b. Emotional/ Social

- More independence
- Managing stress – can lead to anxiety/depression
- Making wise choices
- Staying healthy and safe (getting enough sleep)
- Conflicts
- Dating

IV. Parental Involvement

- a. Setting clear limits and sticking to them (monitor internet usage)
- b. Listen – listening not judging
- c. Be supportive – let them fight their own battles and initiate communication with teachers if there is a problem
- d. Be a good role model
- e. Plan family activities
- f. Encourage your student to get involved in school activities. Inspire them to reach out to local, community, and volunteer opportunities
- g. Know who to talk to about your student's education –
 - Teachers
 - Counselor
 - Family Coach
 - Administrator
- h. Ask yourself – is my student attending classes? Are they submitting work on time? Check your student's gradebook **weekly** and emails **daily**



PARENTS: GET YOUR NEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT OFF TO A GOOD START THIS YEAR!

The changes from middle school or junior high to high school can be especially challenging. Here are some parent-tested ways to help your teen get off to a good start in high school.

1. **Set up a study routine.** High School teachers give longer assignments and expect students to take more responsibility for their own learning. Get your teen into a regular study routine.
2. **Set technology boundaries.** Limit your teen's access to their electronic media devices and internet usage, especially while studying and late at night. Teens struggle with being distracted by their devices and social media outlets (texts, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, etc...)
3. **Encourage your teen to be active.** Kids who are more active in activities also do better in school.
4. **Think about what your teen wants to do after high school.** If he/she's planning to go to college, now is the time he/she needs to start taking all the classes and earning the grades needed to get in. Senior year may be too late to take all the classes he/she will need.
5. **Make sure he/she gets enough sleep.** Research shows that teens are sleep-deprived. You probably can't change the starting time of your teen's high school, but you can make sure he/she goes to bed at a reasonable time every night.

WHAT DO TODAY'S TEENS NEED MOST TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL?

Many parents wonder what teens need most to make it in today's world. Britt Rathbone, a licensed clinical social worker who specializes in working with teens, has seven answers.

1. **Self-Respect** – Teens need to know their strong points and weak points. They must learn to highlight their strengths. And they need to accept that they are not perfect.
2. **Goals** – Teens should have some idea of where they want to go and what they want to be. These goals should be broken down into short and long term objectives so they are more attainable.
3. **Communication Skills** – Teens need to express themselves respectfully, calmly and effectively.
4. **Social Skills** – Teens need to know how to interact appropriately in a variety of social situations (i.e. group work, class discussions, asking teachers for assistance).
5. **Stress Management** – Teens need skills in solving problems; and they need to know how to relax.
6. **Exercise** – This is necessary for top physical and mental health.
7. **Family Support** – This may be the most important of all. It provides teens a foundation for achieving the other six habits and qualities. They may not show it the way they did as small children, but teens need your love and acceptance very much.

FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL? GET YOUR TEEN OFF TO A GOOD START



- **Attend Orientation and Back to School Events** – You’ll have an opportunity to interact with some of your student’s academic team.
- **Help your teen learn time management** – High school teachers are likely to give long-term projects. Teens need to learn how they can manage their time to meet their responsibilities for six or seven classes.
- **Encourage your teen to get involved** with at least one activity. Research shows that students involved with at least one extracurricular have better attendance and better grades.
- **Get involved yourself!** There are many things that a parent can do to make high school a more fun and inviting environment. Go to monthly parent workshops. Visit the website for events held statewide.
- **Don’t always believe** what your teen (or his/her friends) tells you. Students could be telling you they are logging in and getting good grades. **Do not take their word for it!** Log in and check their gradebook and attendance yourself.

WHAT IS YOUR TEEN’S MOST PRODUCTIVE HOMEWORK/CLASSWORK STYLE?

Does your teen spend hour after hour on homework/classwork that should take no more than two hours to complete? Carol Coram, director of the University Preparatory Academy in Seattle, Washington suggests figuring out your teen’s homework style.

Ask your teen the following questions:

1. **In which room do you like to do school work-** the kitchen, bedroom, family room?
Surroundings can make a difference.
2. **What are the distractions in that room?** Some teens can concentrate when the TV is blaring and their siblings are fighting. Some like background music. Others require peace and quiet. An easy way to limit distractions is by blocking your student’s access on their laptop to only school appropriate sites and games.
3. **Do you like to sit at a desk when doing your classwork?** Or do you feel more comfortable on the floor or in a chair?
4. **When do you feel most alert?** Is that when you do school work? Moving homework time from dinner to before dinner may make a difference.
5. **How many breaks do you take?** Too many breaks can interfere with concentration.

STUDY SKILLS

Good study habits lay the groundwork for successful work habits as adults.

There are several basic principles that are necessary to enhance study skills. Homework completion is an important part of studying and learning. It is a good idea to establish a study routine.

It will take time to adequately prepare for each subject. Good study habits take time – be patient and stick with it – the payoff will show on your next report card!

A DOZEN WAYS TO STUDY SMARTER IN LESS TIME:

1. Know each teacher's grading system
2. Keep all assignments and tests to study for final exams
3. Make flash cards
4. Use your downtime to study
5. Study at the same time and place each day
6. Take organized notes
7. Ask for help from the teacher ASAP
8. Use study time, if given, at the end of class
9. Form a study group
10. Always record assignments as soon as they are given
11. Review new information each day



TIME MANAGEMENT TIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

www.collegeboard.org

It's 10 p.m.—Do You Know Where Your Homework Is?

Does it seem like there's never enough time in the day to get everything done? Feel like you're always running late? Here are some tips for taking control of your time and organizing your life.

1. Make a "To Do" List Every Day.

Put things that are most important at the top and do them first. If it's easier, use a planner to track all of your tasks. And don't forget to reward yourself for your accomplishments.

2. Use Spare Minutes Wisely.

Put your phone down and log out of social media – You would be surprised by how much you can accomplish in just a few minutes.

3. It's Okay to Say "No."

If your boss asks you to work on a Thursday night and you have a final exam the next morning, realize that it's okay to say no. Keep your short- and long-term priorities in mind.

4. Find the Right Time.

You'll work more efficiently if you figure out when you do your best work. For example, if your brain handles math better in the afternoon, don't wait to do it until late at night.

5. Review Your Notes Every Day.

You'll reinforce what you've learned, so you need less time to study. You'll also be ready if your teacher calls on you or gives a pop quiz.

6. Get a Good Night's Sleep.

Running on empty makes the day seem longer and your tasks seem more difficult.

7. Communicate Your Schedule to Others.

If phone calls/ social media/ texts are proving to be a distraction, silence your alerts! Remind your friends that you are in school and that you will take social calls from 7-8 p.m. It may sound silly, but it helps.

8. Become a Taskmaster.

Figure out how much free time you have each week. Give yourself a time budget and plan your activities accordingly.

9. Don't Waste Time Agonizing.

Have you ever wasted an entire evening by worrying about something that you're supposed to be doing? Was it worth it? Instead of agonizing and procrastinating, just do it!

10. Keep Things in Perspective.

Setting goals that are unrealistic sets you up for failure. While it's good to set high goals for yourself, be sure not to overdo it. Set goals that are difficult yet reachable.



Consider these tips, but personalize your habits so that they suit you. If you set priorities that fit your lifestyle, you'll have a better chance of achieving your goals.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL?



Up to this point, your educational path has largely been managed by parents, teachers, and administrators. This is the point in your life where much of that changes. Ultimately, it is you who decides the future and the first step is to make a plan for after graduation. What is your plan?

2 year college _____
 4 year college _____
 Undecided _____

Employment _____
 Military _____
 Trade/ Technical School _____

Depending on what you chose, you will need to know about planning for college, applying for college, financial aid, resumes, job searches, opportunities in the military, or various training programs.

SO MANY CHOICES

Making a career decision is not so much choosing a path, but rather selecting which doors to open. The earlier you begin the process, the more options you will find. The most important aspect of this decision-making process at this point in your life is pursuing your options. This will allow you to continue to learn what you do not know yet, explore new interests, and discover new worlds.

Talk to your counselor about your options and be sure to visit PACareerZone.org to begin your career exploration.



Assess Yourself

Self-Assessments can help you know yourself better. And knowing yourself better can help you choose a satisfying job or occupational field to explore.

Begin Assessment



Explore Job Families

Starting your search by looking at broad sectors can help you find related occupations within an area that you might enjoy.

Start Exploring



Budget Your Life

After High School you will need to pay for housing, transportation, and clothes... Find out how much money you will need and which occupations will pay for all your needs.

Get Started

SEVEN EXCUSES NOT TO GO TO COLLEGE...

...AND WHY THEY'RE LAME

www.collegeboard.org

Think college is for other kids, and not for you? Wrong. Don't give up on applying to college before you take a good look at it.

1. I can't go to college—nobody in my family has ever gone.

In every family, someone has to be first. Why not you? True, being first can be hard. For instance, you may have to explain to the family why college is important to you. On the other hand, being first is likely to be a source of pride, for you and for your family.

2. I've been in school for 12 years. That's enough! I just want a good job.

Give college a chance. It's not like high school or junior high. For one thing, in college you pick a major—a subject area that you want to learn about. As for that good job—the best jobs and the best salaries go to college grads.

3. I can't go to college because I can't afford it.

Most students get financial aid to help pay for college, and most aid is based on need. This means that the less money you have, the more aid you might get.

4. I can't go because I don't know how to apply or where I want to go.

Tell your high school counselors you want to go to college fairs, where colleges introduce themselves to students. Ask them how to write to schools for information. Try to visit colleges that interest you. Keep at it. After a while, you'll get a feel for differences among colleges, and start to know what you want.

5. I can't go to college—I don't know what I want to do with my life.

Join the crowd. Thousands of college freshmen haven't decided on a major or on a career. That's how college helps. It exposes you to all sorts of subjects you've never heard of before. College is a great place to learn more about careers you'll love for life.

6. I can't go to college, because I just won't fit in.

Not so. Most colleges have students from many backgrounds. Homesick? Need a hand? Look for people with your interests or your background in the African-American club, on the soccer field, or in a Korean study group. Remember, college is a great place to meet new kinds of people with different lifestyles. And the more people you understand and feel comfortable with, the better prepared you'll be for the world after college.

7. College is too hard for me.

Not you, too! Most students worry about being good enough for college, so you're not alone. One idea: In high school, don't just study—learn how to study. Most good students have strategies for studying. Once you learn how to study, chances are you'll do fine. Still need help? Professors are really helpful, and so are tutors.

JUMP-START YOUR COLLEGE PLANNING

www.collegeboard.org

Ready, Set...

Have you started your college planning yet? It's amazing, but decisions you make as early as eighth grade have a huge effect on your college career. They affect how soon you'll go to college, what type of college you'll attend, and even whether you'll go to college at all.

Get Involved

Getting ready for college isn't all work. Find something you really like doing, then dive into it. Maybe you're drawn to sports, student council, music, or art. You'll develop skills and show colleges your ability to make a commitment and stick with it.

Take Challenging Courses

Colleges do look at your grades, but they also pay attention to how difficult your courses are. They want to see that you've challenged yourself. Plus, if you pursue advanced courses, such as AP[®], you may be able to get college credit.

Get Help

Having trouble in a class? Many schools have peer tutors, students in upper grades who'll help you (for free). Talk to teachers or counselors—let them know you want extra help.

Read

Read at least 30 minutes every day, beyond study and homework. People who read more know more. And when you take PSAT/NMSQT[®] and SAT[®] tests, the time you put into reading will really pay off.

Don't Delay

You'll take the PSAT/NMSQT as a junior (or even as a sophomore). Most students take the SAT in their junior or senior year. Be sure you're taking the solid math and other courses that get you ready. Talk to your counselor to make sure you're on track.

Get the College-Bound Facts

How can you find out about college admissions, work, and campus life? Ask someone who's done it, such as college students who went to your high school. Get to know your counselors. Ask a career planner at a local college, or a teacher. Do Web research.

Involve Your Family

When parents or guardians haven't been to college themselves, they may think they can't help you. That's not true. They can talk to counselors and help you stay on the right path.

Look for a Mentor

Look for adults who can lend their enthusiasm and help you succeed at your goals. If you're interested in a particular subject or activity talk to a teacher or leader who knows about it. Find a counselor or teacher you trust to talk about your goals.

Confront Personal Roadblocks

If you have a problem that's getting in the way of schoolwork, don't ignore it. Talk to your friends, family, or another adult—parent, coach, nurse, counselor—who may be able to offer advice or help.

Roll Up Your Sleeves

If you expect to go to college later, expect to study now. No one can do it for you. Don't talk the college talk—"I'll go to college to get a great career"—without walking the walk.

SOPHOMORE CHECKLIST

AUGUST/ START OF COHORT

- Attend AND complete Orientation at the high school
- Take Needs Assessment survey during enrollment
- Establish goals for the year
- Send message to your teachers and introduce yourself!

SEPTEMBER

- Register with your local district to take the PSAT (*first week of September*)
- Consider extracurricular activities to get involved
- Keep up with all homework assignments – **use a planner!**

OCTOBER

- Meet with your counselor
- Take the PSAT
- Start to create post-secondary planning list
- Use **PA Career Zone** and the **College Board** to do a career and college search – don't forget to create accounts!
- Investigate military opportunities (if interested)

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

- Review quarter 1 grades
- Take Keystone exams (if applicable)
- Stay on top of all homework and long term projects

JANUARY

- Prepare for semester 1 finals
- Meet with teachers and attend help sessions
- Check schedule for semester 2 courses

FEBRUARY

- Prepare to participate in course selection process for 11th grade
- Explore other options; military, technical school or employment
- Evaluate whether you are achieving your goals this year

MARCH/APRIL

- Start looking for summer job, internship or volunteer opportunities
- Consider scheduling college visits from your list created in CollegeBoard.org

MAY/JUNE

- Take Keystone exams
- Work with teachers to complete final/overdue assignments
- Start to prepare for finals
- Print final report card
- Remember, your **final** grades go on your transcript!!!

JULY/ AUGUST

- Consider summer enrichment programs
- Participate in local community service opportunities
- Document above experiences for academic portfolio



YEARLONG TASKS

- Check and monitor grades for academic progress
- Plan to attend monthly guidance workshops
- Attend at least two college presentations or career fairs

WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING AS A SOPHOMORE?

1. Start thinking about what it is you want to do. If you do not know what you want to do after high school, ask your counselor for help.
2. Be informed of all of your options: college (4yr /2yr), technical or business school, military, and workplace.
 - If college is your choice, do a college search on <https://www.collegeboard.org/>
 - If technical or business school is your choice, find out what you want out of the school and what you need to have ready before you apply (portfolio, etc.)
3. Check the guidance website frequently for announcement related to college and career events.
 - <http://agorahscounselors.weebly.com/>
4. Meet with your counselor multiple times to discuss your thoughts and ideas.
5. Plan your classes wisely. Take classes that are both interesting and challenging to demonstrate your academic ability to colleges.
6. Become knowledgeable about post-secondary entrance exams
 - College – PSAT, SAT, and ACT
 - Military – ASVAB
7. Set up a job shadowing, volunteer, or community service experience.
8. Gather information!!!



PSAT INFORMATION

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10>

WHAT IS THE PSAT?

- The PSAT helps students and educators check in on progress toward college and career readiness and success.
- It is an excellent way for students to preview and practice for the SAT.
 - Become familiar with the directions, type of questions asked, and which skills and knowledge areas will be tested.
- It is also the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship (NMSC).
 - <http://www.nationalmerit.org/>

WHO TAKES THE PSAT?

- 10th graders wanting to attend a 4 year college/university
- 10th and 11th grade students who are interested in qualifying for the NMSC scholarship

TAKING THE TEST:

- Agora does not offer the PSAT test. You must contact your LOCAL high school's guidance office to sign up no later than the end of May of the testing year (i.e. May 2016 for October 2016 test dates).
- The PSAT is only offered in October/November and should be taken then as a sophomore or junior.

The fall 2016 testing schedule includes:

- Primary: Wednesday Oct. 19
- Saturday: Oct. 15
- Alternate: Wednesday Nov. 2

- Content and Timing -

New PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10		
Component	Time Allotted (min.)	Number of Questions/ Tasks
Reading	60	47
Writing and Language	35	44
Math	70	48
Total	165	139

CONTACT CARD 2016-2017

Main Office

844-40-AGORA (844-402-4672)

Enrollment

844-GO-AGORA (844-462-4672)

School Website

<http://www.agoraeagles.org/>
www.agora.org

Guidance Website

<http://agorahscounselors.weebly.com/>

IT Support Desk - New Name! New Number! New Hours!

If you are the parent of a currently enrolled student,
you can reach the Agora K12 Customer Care and
Technical Support team by calling

(855) 412-3712

during the available Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday	8:00 am - 11:59 pm EST
Saturdays and Sundays	12:00 noon - 8:00 pm EST