

"What Should I Be Doing Now to Prepare for College?"

FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE COLLEGE PREP RECOMMENDATIONS

Plan to take a challenging curriculum.

- Work toward completing the Kansas Regents Scholarship Curriculum.
- Plan to take Honors or AP courses.

Begin formal preparation for your college entrance tests.

- Take advantage of any prep sessions and test seminars at school.
- Analyze your test results from the PSAT and PLAN when you receive them.
- READ, READ, READ!
- Make it a habit to look up unfamiliar words. Use fun websites like www.freerice.com to increase your vocabulary.
- Link the official SAT Question of the Day to your email address at www.collegeboard.com.

Begin researching colleges.

- Learn to use the College Board and ACT websites. They offer a variety of information including college matching programs like College Quick Finder and College Match Maker.
- Use the internet or a college handbook to find out what kinds of grades and test scores are needed for entrance into various colleges and Honors programs.
- Visit college websites.
- Join college mailing lists to receive information through the mail.
- Read your mail from colleges.
- Attend sporting events, theater productions, or concerts at nearby colleges to gain familiarity with their campuses and their programs.
- Visit nearby colleges whenever traveling on vacation.
- Remember: The college search process is like a huge research project!

Use your summer break wisely.

- Take advantage of any academic enrichment experiences such as the Pre-Legal Camp at Washburn University, Kansas Youth Leadership Academy, or the Southwestern College Summer Youth Leadership Camp. Watch for a chance to have a pre-college experience in which you live in a dorm and study a subject of interest.
- Extend your education into your community by shadowing different professions.
- Become familiar with the National Youth Leadership Forum website: www.nylf.org. See if any of their programs will work for you in the future.
- Attend a summer engineering program, offered for the summer after the sophomore year by both KU and KState. Or research other programs in your area of interest.

Make a habit of always doing your best in all things.

- Keep your grades up.
- Make sure your homework is up-to-date.
- Develop good time management and study habits.
- Keep your nose clean!

Investigate a variety of school activities.

- Get involved early so that you can pave the way to leadership opportunities.
- Continue developing your passions – in and out of school.
- Strive to find a balance between outside school commitments, schoolwork, and extracurricular activities.
- Remember: a laundry list of activities isn't as impressive as it looks. Do not join a club or organization just to have it on your resume. Find things you enjoy doing – be they one or ten activities!

Develop healthy relationships with teachers and students.

- Respect your teachers and build relationships with them. They are here to help you and will one day write your letters of recommendation!
- Pay attention to announcements; congratulate other students on their accomplishments.
- Help Ms. Gunn get to know you; she will be your ally throughout the process!

Build a solid community service record.

- Look for opportunities for extended volunteering such as VolunTeens, YOUited Teens, and “BIGS” in schools.
- Join a Youth Council.
- Sign up to receive the monthly newsletter from the United Way of the Plains.
- Keep your grades and activities up so that you are invited to join the National Honor Society, which offers many opportunities for service projects.
- Create your own service project.

Keep good records.

- Keep a record of your accomplishments – including academics, fine arts, and sports.
- Keep a copy of all community service hours served and the verifying person or organization. Turn in community service hours yearly to the Upper School office!