Hays Consolidated ISD

Committed to Preparing All Students to Graduate College, Career and Life Ready!

FRESHMAN CHECKLIST *for College & Career Readiness*

CLASS of 2030

FALL

COMPLETE COLLEGE & CAREER EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES (through SchooLinks)

- Complete college & career exploration tasks for your grade level on the comprehensive college & career readiness dashboard-**SchooLinks** *(which is accessible to you through your classlink single sign-on)*, to explore your strengths and interests to begin building a foundation for college & career readiness.

PLAN FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

- Meet with your counselor to **discuss your college plans and course schedule and endorsements**.
- **Review your schedule** to make sure you are enrolled in challenging and rigorous classes. A wide variety of advanced courses are available to you including AP, Dual Credit, OnRamps/Dual Enrolment, etc. Also, colleges prefer at least three years of a foreign language and four years of core classes.
- Start thinking about your **career goals** and talk to people in that field – ask lots of questions!
- **GET INVOLVED in extracurricular activities** and begin to make a resume of your activities. This will be of great use for you when starting to apply for college admissions as well as jobs.
- ***40 hrs of VOLUNTEER HRS and/or COMMUNITY SERVICE are now a required HS graduation requirement.*** Get an early headstart and log all hrs. Complete and upload documentation in Schoolinks.
- **Attend college fairs** and ask lots of questions about admissions, majors, financial aid, programs, etc.
- WORK HARD on your **academics, grade point average**, homework and semester exams.
- Develop good work habits for homework and time management skills.

TAKE THE PSAT 9th

- Take the PSAT 9th and DO YOUR BEST. **The PSAT will be administered in OCTOBER.** Hays CISD will pay for you to take it and there is no need to pre-register. *do test practice with ample time and just give it your best; as the PSAT scores are not only a predictor of how well you will do on the actual SAT but also it is used as a measure of College Readiness!*

SPRING

PREPARE FOR TESTS

- Do your very best on your END-OF-COURSE exams. Talk to your counselor if you have questions.
- Prepare for your semester exams and finish strong!

SIGNING UP FOR COURSES FOR NEXT FALL

- Talk to your counselor and teachers about taking AP, Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment, or Articulated courses next fall so that you can get college credit while in high school.
- Check your progress towards graduation; that you are earning all credits & attaining your best GRADE POINT AVERAGE.
- Revise and update your **4 YEAR PLAN** (in **SchooLinks**) and make sure you are completing at least one CTE class each year within a coherent sequence/pathway to earn your endorsement.

LEARN ABOUT COLLEGES

- Visit colleges online and compare programs, cost of attendance and even take a virtual tour at https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org and through https://www.ownyourownfuture.com
- Tour colleges during Spring break or in the summer (colleges have special events for high school students).

STAY FOCUSED

- Make sure to be doing your best in all classes, keep in mind that the GPA (which drives your rank) that you will use to apply for college during the Summer/Fall of your senior year is calculated from **ALL coursework taken from 9th-11th grade.**

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EXPLORE SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

- Look for summer opportunities to put on your resume; internships, jobs or classes taken in the summer.
- Keep track of your volunteer activities and enrichment programs that you participate in.
- Talk to your counselor about taking **advanced courses**; like AP, Dual Credit and/or Dual Enrollment in the spring of your sophomore year or be ready to take additional advanced courses for the new school year.
- Start a summer reading list and visit college campuses (many colleges have special events during the summer)

TEST PRACTICE & PREPARATION RESOURCES

SAT CUSTOMIZED TEST PREP: www.khanacademy.org
ACT PERSONALIZED PRACTICE: www.act.org
TSIA2 TEST PREP through ACCUPLACER & Download the APP as well:
https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice and through the ACC Website:
http://instruction.austincc.edu/tsiprep/

COLLEGE RESOURCES

EXPLORE AND COMPARE COLLEGE OPTIONS:
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search

SCHOOLINKS is now our comprehensive COLLEGE & CAREER EXPLORATION AND PLANNING PLATFORM:
https://app.schoolinks.com/login/k12
**(you can now access this new College & career readiness platform through your ClassLink single sign-on)*

COMPARE COLLEGES: https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/
GET FINANCIAL AID GUIDANCE: https://StudentAid.gov
COMPLETE the FAFSA (the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid): https://studentaid.gov

CAREER RESOURCES

WHERE TO LEARN ABOUT CAREERS? https://roadtripnation.com
OTHER CAREER EXPLORATION TOOLS: https://texascareercheck.com/
My Big Future/College Board: https://roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder
*Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) - https://twc.texas.gov/programs
CAREERS IN THE MILITARY: https://www.careersinthemilitary.com/
ASVAB Test: Contact a Recruiter militaryhttps://www.asvabprogram.com/media-center-article/109

COLLEGE and CAREER FAIRS

TACRAO COLLEGE FAIR - September 23rd, 9:30am. -11:30am.
*Location: CTX Sunfield Event Center *Sign-Up through your College & Career Counselor*

Spring Swing College Fair - TBA/Usually during the last week in **March**
NACAC Austin National College Fair - TBA/ *Spring Semester*