

## ***Sophomore Year Checklist***

- ☐ Begin thinking about life after high school and start exploring possible career paths
  - speak with professionals in these fields and consider job shadowing
- ☐ Research potential colleges based on career preferences.
  - Note their GPA and test score requirements for admission and view the average GPA and SAT/ACT scores of students who attend that school.
  - Check which high school classes are required for acceptance.
  - Begin considering education costs and speak with your parent or guardian regarding ways your family might pay for college. Keep in mind that financial aid MAY be available. Payment plans and student loans should also be available.
  - Attend the college fair at USI that is usually held in October or look into “visiting” virtual college fairs. (<https://www.collegefairguide.com/> is a good resource for finding local fairs.)
  - Investigate what schooling/training you need to enter the fields in which you are interested.
- ☐ Set academic goals to maintain or improve GPA
  - Get the best grades possible.
  - Speak with your teachers about how to improve study habits or possible resources such as tutoring. Don’t wait until your grade is suffering.
  - When enrolling in your high school classes, check in with your school counselor regarding your 4 year plan and if you are on pace to achieve your academic goals.
  - Inquire about dual credit and AP opportunities.
  - Take 4 years of math.
- ☐ Get involved! Spend this year focusing on extracurricular activities, volunteering opportunities, job shadowing, etc.
  - Seek leadership opportunities! Colleges are impressed by students who are willing to take on the responsibility of a leadership role and who can thrive in this capacity. They prefer you to be highly involved in a few activities rather than being involved in many activities but not participating within them. Continuing clubs or extracurricular activities from last year is a good idea; demonstrate dedication.
- ☐ Take the PSAT and use scores for guided practice while preparing for the SAT/ACT
  - You can use the College Board website to practice for the PSAT  
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice>
- ☐ Update your brag sheet throughout the year. If you don’t have one, contact Mrs. Rose. This will be a good resource for you when completing scholarship applications later in high school.

- ☐ Read your high school email, listen to announcements, and check the bulletin board across from the Counseling Office.
- ☐ Maintain positive relationships with school faculty, employers, and those for whom you volunteer as these are the people who will be writing letters of recommendation for you later in high school.
- ☐ Every college is different so stay informed regarding the colleges in which you are interested.
- ☐ See Mrs. Rose, the College and Career Coach, in the Counseling Office if you have questions.

## Helpful Websites

- <https://www.mynextmove.org/> - Career interest profiler (No account to set up but if you want to return to a section, click Share, Email, and enter your personal email. It sends a link to that page.)
- <https://learnmoreindiana.org/> - Learn more about careers, college, and cost.
- <https://www.howtobecome.com/> - Provides information on certain careers and find advice from people in those careers.
- <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> - search majors and state(s) and find colleges that offer a specific major (not a perfect site but is a good tool)
- <https://www.builttosucceed.org/> - Information on apprenticeship/union programs
- <https://indianacareerexplorer.com/#SplitModal> - career exploration
- <https://indianacareerready.com/> - information about high wage, high demand jobs
- <https://www.indianacareerconnect.com/vosnet/Default.aspx>

## Additional Suggestions

1. Go to school: attendance is very important (get better grades and show employers you are dependable)
2. Get organized: write down assignments; use color coded folders for each class; keep notes, tests, quizzes and homework so you can refer back to them as needed
3. Write down your assignments throughout the day and look at the list before you leave school to prevent forgetting needed materials.
4. Do your homework. Missing assignments are detrimental to your grades.
5. Ask for help right away if you need it.
6. Avoid drama. Surround yourself with others who make good decisions.

If you have questions, see Mrs. Rose located in the Counseling Office.

[rosear@mvschool.org](mailto:rosear@mvschool.org)

Call or text my Google Voice number: 812-266-0330