

## ***Freshman Year Checklist***

- ☐ Meet with your school counselor when enrolling in classes. Develop an academic 4 year plan
  - Things to consider: Diploma Track, what courses do colleges prefer or require (check the college website), take 4 years of math, take courses that are both interesting and challenging
- ☐ Get the best grades you can throughout high school. Don't have regrets when you are a senior. All high school grades count toward your cumulative 4 year GPA.
- ☐ Join a sport, or fine arts program that interests you. Colleges look for students who are involved and invested in their education.
- ☐ Join a couple clubs/organizations and stick with them all 4 years. Colleges prefer you to be involved and take leadership roles in a few organizations rather than being involved in many clubs/activities and not participating within them.
- ☐ Find local volunteer opportunities
  - Various clubs at school will offer opportunities to volunteer or seek out other opportunities on your own
- ☐ Begin to consider what career paths may be interesting to you (helpful websites included on page 2)
  - Consider job shadowing over summer break or interviewing people about their jobs
- ☐ Once you have some possible career paths in mind, begin researching colleges that offer related programs
  - Attend the college fair at USI usually held in October. You may also take virtual college tours or "visit" virtual college fairs (Collegefairguide.com is a good resource for finding local fairs)
  - Investigate what you need to do to enter the fields in which you are interested.
- ☐ Begin compiling a "brag sheet" and keep it up-to-date throughout high school. One has been shared with you. Copy and rename it and keep it in your Google Drive. This will help you complete scholarship applications later in high school.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Check your high school email and listen to announcements.
- ☐ Meet with 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. If you want to return to a certain section later, 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