

College Planning

Freshman Year

The beginning of high school is an exciting time. You will be adjusting to a new school, making new friends, having new activities, and becoming more independent. But you will need help in planning your future. Here are some things you can do with your parents to help you plan your success in the future. Be sure to check out the [WBHS Brace Website](#).

Summer Before High School

- Visit a college campus together. It's a great way to learn about college. Review the information about [preparing for a campus visit](#).
- Get the facts about what college costs. You may be surprised at how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading [Understanding College Costs](#).
- Explore career ideas. Look through magazines or newspapers for articles that interest you and discuss with your parents. Make a list of interest, talents, and favorite activities and start matching them with occupations. Learn more about careers and [complete a career worksheet](#).

Fall

- Make sure you meet with the school counselor and the Brace Advisor to talk about college and career options and to choose the most-appropriate classes. Learn more about [the high school counselor's role](#).
- Set goals for the school year. Working towards a specific goal helps you stay motivated and focused. It also helps to show how much progress you have made.
- Make a plan to check in regularly about schoolwork. Keep informed about tests, papers, and homework assignments. You can celebrate successes and head off problems as a team. [Get homework tips](#).
- Talk about extracurricular activities. Getting involved in clubs and other groups is a great way to identify interests and feel more engaged in school and the community. [Read more about the benefits of extracurricular activities](#).

Winter

- Start thinking about financial aid. It's not too early to look into types of aid that could help you cover college costs. Start by reading [7 Things You Need To Know About Financial Aid](#).
- Discuss next year's classes. Make sure the classes are challenging and you are taking the courses college admission officers expect to see. [Learn more about the high school classes that colleges look for.](#)

Spring

- Start a college list. Do the [College Search Step-by-Step](#) with your parents to get tips on starting a college search and figuring out what matters most to you when choosing a college.
- See how much you need to save for college. Use the [College Savings Calculator](#) to get an idea of where you are compared to your savings goal.
- Make [summer plans](#) and review the plans for your "Sophomore Year"