

College Planning

Sophomore Year

As you settle into the high school experience, it is a great time to take on new challenges. It's also not too early to explore colleges, college majors, and career goals. Use the list below to mark your 10th grade year count. Be sure to check out the [WBHS Brace Website](#).

Summer

- 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](#).
- Taking the PSAT/NMSQT or the PLAN this fall can help you prepare for college admission tests. Sophomores can also use their score reports to figure out which academic areas they need to work on. Learn more about the [PSAT/NMSQT](#).

Winter

- Review PSAT/NMSQT or PLAN results with your parents. Your score indicates academic strengths and weaknesses. Review and discuss ways to improve in areas that need attention. If you took the PSAT/NMSQT, log in to [My College QuickStart](#) to get personalized feedback based on your score report.
- 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](#).
- Consider taking the SAT Subject Tests. Many colleges require or recommend taking these tests to get a sense of your skills in a certain academic area. In general, it's best to take a Subject Test right after taking the relevant course. Learn more about SAT Subject Tests. [COVID UPDATE - College Board Will No Longer Offer SAT Subject Tests or SAT with Essay](#).
- 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

- Make a college wish list with your parents. Review the "Parent/Student Discussion Points"
- 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 "Junior Year"