

# Middle School

## Begin Planning Now

College seems a million miles away when you are in middle school, but graduation is just around the corner! Middle school is the half-way point to college. Planning for life after high school begins in middle school. The choices that you make today will impact your life tomorrow! Begin planning now so that you are prepared for the many opportunities that will be available to you when you graduate. Regardless of whether you choose to go to college, a trade or technical school, the military or the workforce, you must be prepared.

There are many ways that you can begin preparing yourself.

- 1) Push yourself! Take the most challenging courses you can at every grade level. Colleges look for students who have taken classes that have challenged them.
- 2) Study hard, turn in all your assignments on time and do your best to earn good grades.
- 3) Read, read, read! Build a strong vocabulary.
- 4) Participate in extracurricular activities to acquire a well-rounded education.

## Information on preparing for college!

<http://www.collegezone.com/> This site is brought to you by the state of Illinois. Visit the Student Zone for information by grade level.

<http://mappingyourfuture.org/> This is a one stop site for college and career planning. Lots of information set up for students to easily understand and access.

<http://www.aie.or/MiddleSchool/index.cfm> This is the Adventures in Education website. Available in English and Spanish; it covers all subjects related to planning and paying for college.

<http://collegeforalltexas.com/> This the Texas site for planning, exploring, and paying for college in Texas. It has sections for middle school students as well as for parents.

<http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/> Explore financial aid possibilities from the federal government.

<http://www.makeitcount.com/students/start/default.asp> Valuable information on college for students of all ages.

[www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org) All types of information on going to college.

## Student's Planning Guide

Use this checklist to help prepare you for educational opportunities after high school.

- Begin thinking about the high school classes that will prepare you for college. Take the most difficult classes you can handle.
- Ask your parents, guardians, or teachers to help you develop good study habits.
- Practice setting and reaching goals.
- Volunteer in the community.
- Take interest and skills assessments to help you think about possible career options. Take courses that prepare you for these careers.
- Talk to your school counselor and others about careers that interest you.
- Create a tentative high school plan.
- Enroll in a summer enrichment program.

## Take a college tour!

[www.ecampustours.com](http://www.ecampustours.com)

