

9th GRADE

The Journey Begins

This is the year to begin preparing for college. There are many steps you can take this year to ensure you are ready for college in the coming years.

- 1) The best way to get ready for your future is to begin taking college preparatory classes now and earning the best grades you can. Your grades and curriculum are perhaps the most important factors in college admission. Take the most challenging classes available to you.
- 2) Research dual credit, advanced placement, and tech prep classes available at your school – you can earn college credit while in high school.
- 3) Begin thinking of careers you may be interested in pursuing. Collect career information and talk to people with fascinating jobs you would like more information about. Whether you choose to pursue technical school, the military, or the work force immediately after high school, the more information you have, the better prepared you will be.

Information on Preparing for College

http://apps.collegeboard.com/fincalc/college_savings.jsp College Savings Calculator to discuss college costs with your parents
<http://www.anycollege.com/> or <http://www.campusexplorer.com> College search sites to explore four year, two year, technical, and vocational college opportunities
<http://www.coin3.com/> Coin provides self and career exploration
<http://www.campustours.com> Provides virtual tours of college campuses across the United States.
<http://www.connectedu.net/corp/index.html> ConnectEdu provides comprehensive college planning, student tracking, and high school counseling tools.
<http://www.cfid.net/dept2/counseling/contents.htm> Cy-Fair ISD Guidance and Counseling website with comprehensive college, career, and financial aid information.

Student's Planning Guide

- Meet with your counselor to discuss your college plans. Review your schedule to make sure you're enrolled in challenging classes that will help you prepare for college.
- Talk to your parents about saving money for college. Use a college savings calculator, like the one listed below, to see how much money you'll need for college, whether you're on track to save enough, and what you need to do to reach your goal.
- Get involved in extracurricular and community service activities you are passionate about. Start a file documenting these activities and the hours you spend on each one.
- Begin exploring colleges by visiting college fairs and local campuses, and using online college search tools to determine which colleges best fit your needs and interests, and to determine which tests and courses are required for entrance.
- Look for a great summer opportunity — job, internship, or volunteer position. Read this summer; ask your teacher for recommendations.