



Tips for the College Bound Freshman

Getting prepared for college begins with developing good habits early in high school. While a strong academic record is key, exploring and developing interests in and out of the classroom is just as important. Freshmen should explore athletic teams, clubs, and community service organizations early in the year to discover their strengths and interests.

To succeed academically, a student must pay close attention at school and ask for help when needed. It's important to begin to advocate for yourself in the classroom when you may need more explanation on certain topics. Speak with teachers when needed, e-mail questions, and utilize tutoring hours. Your high school academic record or transcript is a crucial piece of your college application. It's important that you do your best everyday.

Time management is necessary in learning to balance schoolwork with other interests. Begin to be comfortable using a planner listing all homework assignments, tests or quizzes coming up, sports practices, recitals, etc. The more you use your planner, the more it will become a habit. Planning out and being able to visually see your week at a glance will help ease feeling too overwhelmed.

We all have different learning styles. Begin to recognize which study method works best with your learning style – flashcards, re-writing notes, reciting the material out loud to someone else?

Students should work closely with parents, teachers, and counselors to develop these skills and other healthy personal habits like eating right and getting enough sleep.

Colleges are interested in students who are engaged, active, and thoughtful. At Chandler Prep, formal college planning small group seminars and individual meetings begin with the junior year, but here are some specifics for you to keep in mind during the second year of high school:

- *Study hard and get good grades!*
- *In October you will take the PSAT, a practice exam for the SAT. Results will be reviewed after winter break.*
- *Get involved in co-curricular activities, but remember it's the quality and level of involvement and accomplishments, rather than the number of activities. Freshman year is a great time to try new things!*
- *Participate in community service – beyond our required 40 hours. Giving back to your community interests colleges and universities.*
- *Keep a running record of all awards, achievements, honors, and activities. You will need this information when completing college applications. Start compiling a resume now while your achievements are fresh in your mind.*
- *Make your summer productive – take enrichment courses, attend summer camps or workshops, volunteer, get a job! Limit couch and video game time!*