



## 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, extracurricular opportunities, and community service organizations early in the year to discover their strengths and interests.

To succeed academically, students must pay close attention at school and ask for help when needed. Time management is crucial in learning to balance schoolwork with other interest, and students should work closely with parents, teachers, and counselors to develop these skills

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

- Study hard and get excellent grades. The higher the grades in your courses, the more college options you will have. Freshman year is when you lay a good foundation academically and build off of that.
- Read! Our Great Books curriculum offers you the opportunity to explore some of the greatest literature ever written. Reading these books will also help to increase your vocabulary. Even read outside of school on your own time.
- Join extracurricular activities and sports. High school is the time to discover new areas of interest or strengths aside from the ones that you already have. Get involved and volunteer!
- You receive an introduction to College Counseling and our college/career advising tool called Naviance. You begin creating a resumé and researching colleges and careers using Naviance (and college websites). You may begin building a list of interesting colleges and save them for future reference.
- Keep academic and co-curricular records. Write down every award, honor, activity, and leadership position that you hold. These are crucial elements to many scholarship and college applications.
- Research career possibilities
- Continue saving money for college
- Your **Sophomore** and **Junior** years you will take the PSAT. The PSAT is the preliminary SAT. Performing well in school is your best preparation for these tests as this point.