



Tips for the College Bound Sophomore

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. Sophomores should explore athletic teams, enrichment courses, extracurricular activities, and community service organizations early in the year to discover 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 interests, 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 Sophomore year of high school:

- Study hard and get excellent grades. The higher your grades in your courses, the more college options will be open to you.
- October – PSAT – a practice exam for the SAT (The one that counts is in your Junior year, use this as practice for that as well).
- February - Pre ACT – a practice exam for the ACT (The one that counts is in your Junior year, use this as practice for that as well).
- Re-introduction to College Counseling. Continue to review and use Naviance to build/update your resumé and research colleges, majors, and careers.
- Get involved in co-curricular activities and consider leadership opportunities. Remember it's about the quality and level of involvement and accomplishments, rather than the number of activities.
- Keep a record of all awards, achievements, honors, and activities. Add these to your resumé in Naviance.
- Participate and look for leadership opportunities in community service – this can open doors to numerous scholarship opportunities.
- Make your summer productive—take enrichment courses, attend summer camps or workshops, or try to get a job or volunteer.