

NINTH GRADE COLLEGE TIMELINE/CHECKLIST

- ❑ **Meet your guidance counselor or the College and Career Counselor about your college and career goals.** Counselors are ready and willing to help you make sense of your college and career options.
- ❑ **Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss which endorsement area you plan to pursue.** This is an opportunity for you to select a "major" while you are in high school. Endorsement areas include: Arts and Humanities, Business & Industry, Multidisciplinary, Public Service and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).
- ❑ **Take challenging classes.** Make sure you're enrolled in the appropriate college-prep or tech-prep classes.
- ❑ **Do well in your classes.** Your academic performance is an important part of your college application and that record of performance begins in the ninth grade. Colleges want to know that you can perform well academically and can push yourself in challenging courses.
- ❑ **Get involved.** Extracurricular activities (both school- and non-school-sponsored) are an important part of high school. Make the effort to get involved with groups, clubs, or teams that interest you. These activities are fun and make you a well-rounded student.
- ❑ **Explore Dual Credit, AP or honors level courses.** This may be a great opportunity for you to take college-level classes or upper-level classes that will be challenging and attractive additions to your high school transcript.
- ❑ **Think about how you plan to spend your summer.** Make your summer count! Think about volunteering at a local agency or community organization. If you have an area you are interested in, you may be able to job shadow or intern for a couple of weeks to make sure the work is something you would enjoy. It may be too early to begin visiting colleges, but you can begin researching colleges online.
- ❑ **Add to or open a college savings account.** College can be expensive and the more you save towards college, the less you will need to find when you are ready to enroll. Every little bit helps so do not be discouraged if the amount saved is small at first.
- ❑ **Create a college planning file.** Begin to collect your important application related documents: report cards, list of awards and honors, community activities and volunteer work.
- ❑ **Attend College Fair:** This will give you a chance to meet with representatives from local and national colleges and universities.
- ❑ **Explore your interests and possible careers** by attending a Summer Enrichment Camp or program. Many local colleges offer camps for ninth graders that allow students to explore areas career or academic interests. [Collin College](#) has offered nursing, robotics, music, dance, SAT/ACT preparation camps. Other colleges like [UT Dallas](#) offers camps for students who want to explore Engineering, Computer Programming and Sports camps.