



9th Grade Year College Preparedness Timeline

School Year Focus: Be a Good Learner

September	<p>Create systems to stay organized with all your schoolwork and talk to your teachers to get extra tutoring if you struggle in classes. Keep all quizzes and tests in a safe place so you can use them to study for finals.</p> <p>Create an appropriately named email account where colleges, jobs, internships can contact you.</p>
October	<p>This is the time to discover your likes, dislikes, talents, and passions! Try a new sport, join a new club or activity, or look for community service opportunities. Quality over quantity is the rule of thumb as colleges are looking to assess your level of commitment, improvement and ability to balance your schedule as they holistically review your application.</p> <p>Take the PSAT if desired. No need to study for this – it is simply an assessment that will show your areas of strength and weakness on this test, so you know how to study for future exams. Test structure and test taking skills will be reviewed in class prior to the test date.</p>
December	<p>Begin to study for exams early in the month. Correct missed questions on all past tests and quizzes. Create a study group to review notes, flash cards and tests/quizzes.</p> <p>It's not too early to start thinking about your summer plans. Would you like an internship or to shadow someone in a particular field? Would you like to learn a new skill or travel somewhere interesting? Now is the time to start planning. Stop by your counselor's office for ideas!</p>
January	<p>Begin saving for college. Visit a local bank to discuss options.</p>
February	<p>Attend Valor's spring workshop.</p>
March	<p>Visit a college over Spring Break or any chance you get, especially if you travel. Visit colleges of different types – small, large, private, public – to get a feel for what fits you best.</p>
April	<p>Keep track of academic and extracurricular awards, community service achievements, and anything else you participate in, so it'll be easier to remember later. Keeping a shoe box in a designated space an easy option to just throw in your programs, awards, certificates, newspaper clippings, etc. These will be needed on your resume.</p>
May	<p>Begin to study for exams early in the month. Finish the year strong!</p>
Summer	<p>Read for pleasure and find opportunities to develop your extracurricular interests. Take study skill courses or summer school if needed to get ahead for next year.</p>