

Stay Sharp

SET ASIDE A LITTLE TIME TO HELP YOUR TEEN STAY SHARP OVER THE BREAK AND START SOME COLLEGE PREP. USE OUR HANDY-DANDY CHECKLIST AS YOUR GUIDE TO WORK WITH YOUR TEENS TO GET READY FOR COLLEGE AND BEYOND.

-Entering 7th & 8th Grade-

- Read, read, read. Challenge them to read at least four good books
- Job shadow several people in different career fields
- Create a list of colleges of interest
- Visit a nearby college campus
- Work on organizational skills and note taking
- Discuss and role-play responses to issues in school like drugs, bullying, cheating, friendships, dating
- Learn basic "on-their-own" skills like ironing, organizing closets and helping with the household budget

-Entering 9th Grade-

- Discuss the importance of transcripts since admission decisions and scholarships hinge on academic performance starting in the 9th grade
- Work on reading and math speed
- Begin working on ACT/SAT prep
- Attend a leadership or other enrichment camp
- Tour college campuses
- Talk to guidance counselors about college prep courses
- Expand on basic "on-their-own" skills by learning to cook and prepare meals for the family
- Prepare for Drivers Ed

-Entering 10th Grade-

- Explore summer opportunities such as jobs, internships, volunteer work related to future career plans
- Prepare for the PSAT
- Develop a resume
- Create a professional email account for correspondence with admissions counselors
- Attend a leadership or other enrichment camp

- CHECKLIST -

- Tour college campuses and learn about their admission requirements
- Enroll in college prep courses
- Begin saving money for living expenses
- Research scholarship opportunities with career and academic goals in mind
- Learn basic car maintenance
- Open a checking account

-Entering 11th Grade-

- Register for the PSAT. Junior year scores count toward the National Merit Scholarship program
- Focus on areas that will help boost ACT/SAT score
- Evaluate their schedule to be sure they have all required classwork for admittance to the university of their choice
- Discuss the importance of grades-Application to colleges begins before senior year grades post
- Align summer activities with their career plans
- Update their resume
- Create a college file with information and correspondence from their college choices
- Visit colleges and schedule interviews with colleges of interest.
- Learn how to do laundry

-Entering 12th Grade-

- Focus on areas that will help boost ACT/SAT score
- Develop application essays and have someone proofread them
- Apply to colleges and universities
- Apply for scholarships
- Ask for letters of recommendations. They should give each person their resume, application forms along with addressed and stamped envelopes
- Create a master calendar of deadlines for admission, scholarship applications, financial aid applications and events
- Discuss traits of good roommates and start looking ✨