**College and Career Planning for 9th and 10th Graders**

There are some steps you can take as a 9th and 10th grader to make sure you’re on the right track for college and career.

Here’s a list to help you navigate the college/career planning process.

***Grade 9- Learn Your High School***

 Create a 4-Year High School Plan.

- Think about what you’d like to accomplish in the next 4 years. Set some goals.

- Make sure you know what high school courses are required by colleges and that you’re taking the right classes as

early as 9th grade. You can ask your counselor about what those “right” classes are.

- Get to know the levels of courses offered by your school. (Regular, honors, dual enrollment, Advanced Placement)

 Participate in extracurricular activities. Academics aren’t everything. Explore your interests in a sport, school club,

music or drama group, or community volunteer activity. All part of becoming the adult you will be.

- Remember that colleges would rather see real involvement in one activity than a loose connection to several of

them.

- If you’re interested in playing sports in college, research the National College Athletic Association eligibility

requirements The NCAA requires completion of certain core courses, you can find the specifics at

www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

 Meet with your high school counselor. Your counselor knows how to help you get the most out of high school. Be

sure to take some time during the school year to discuss post-high school plans with him or her.

**Sign up for Mrs. Small’s Remind 101 “Class of 2025” access code is 3hackd2**

**If you want to be on Mrs. Small’s email mailing list email** [**small.natalie@brevardschools.org**](mailto:small.natalie@brevardschools.org) **with “Add me to your 2025 class email list” in the subject line.**

 Save for post-secondary education and goals. Plan for costs such as car, apartment, tuitions, etc.

 Explore summer opportunities. Look for a job or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of

interest.

**Grade 10-Learn yourself and what you want to be when you grow up.**

 Meet with your high school counselor – again. Make sure you meet with your school counselor to ensure your course

schedule is challenging enough to prepare you for college or your career.

 Take the PSAT in 10th grade. This test provides valuable feedback so you can then work on any academic weaknesses while there is still plenty of time to improve upon them. College board offers free personalized SAT practice through their partnership with Khan Academy. Also, the PSAT math sub score can be used as a concordant score for passing the Algebra I EOC (graduation requirement).

 Are you interested in attending a U.S. military academy? If so, you should request a pre-candidate questionnaire.

 Keep up participation in school activities or volunteer efforts. Extracurricular activities can help you develop time management skills and enrich your high school experience.

 Tour college campuses. If possible, take advantage of vacation or other family travel time to visit college and see what

they are like. Even if you have no interest in attending the college you are visiting it will help you learn what to look for

in a college. Virtual Tours are available from Floridashines.org (“Go to college”, “Explore Institutions”, “Virtual Campus tours”) or watch The College Tour at www.thecollegetour.com

Websites also have Interest Inventory assessments that can help you figure out what you want to be when you grow up. **Floridashines.org** under Find a Career (https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip) or **My Next Move** at (mynextmove.org) under “I’m not really sure” or **365 Tests** at <https://365tests.com/job-tests/>

Consider summer career exploration or leadership activities to beef up your resume.