College Planning

for sophomores

Meet with your high school counselor – again. Be sure to meet with your school counselor to ensure that your course schedule is challenging enough to prepare you for college.

Attend college and career fairs. The college fair is offered at the Hagerty Center each October.

Participate in school activities or volunteer efforts. Extracurricular activities can help you develop time-management skills and enrich your high school experience.

If you are on a college campus, see what they are like. Take note of what you like and don’t like about the campus. 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.

Talk with current college students, or alumni to get a real idea of what colleges are like.

Take the PSAT 10 test, given to all students at CHS in spring. Use Khan Academy for test prep.

Ask a counselor or teacher about taking the SAT subject tests (only the most selective colleges require them & none in Michigan). You should take them while course material is still fresh in your mind. You can download Getting Ready for The SAT Subject Tests, which offers test prep advice, from www.SATSubjectTests.org.

If you’re in Advanced Placement Program (AP) classes, register for the AP Exams given in May. You can earn college credit for courses not given in the AP Program by taking CLEP tests at the college test center. Visit clep.collegeboard.org to learn more.

Work hard to get good grades. Most colleges will be reviewing your academic performance in 9th, 10th, and 11th grades when making an admissions decision.

Keep developing good study habits. As a 10th grader, you should aim for at least 1-2 hours of studying each weeknight.

Begin to identify your areas of academic strength as well as areas of particular interest or passion.

During the summer months, participate in meaningful activities – such as volunteer, pre college programs – both for personal fulfillment and as an achievement you can include on college applications. You also might consider job shadowing to learn more about professions that interest you.

Explore college websites in greater depth.

Resources
www.collegeboard.org
www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
www.actstudent.org
www.petersons.com www.usnews.com
www.princetonreview.com
https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/
www.cappex.com

Updated Fall 2015