

10th Grade Planning Timeline

- Keep those grades up! You might have a lot going on this year, but it's important to stay focused on your schoolwork.
- Continue to Take Challenging Courses an "A" in Honors or Advance Placement courses is more impressive than an "A" in a CP Course. Your success in challenging academic courses provides the college admissions folks with the best evidence of your ability to succeed in college.
- Continue your conversations with your school counselors, teachers, family members or trusted adults about your plans for college or other paths towards a career.
- Find out about AP and Honors-level courses for junior year.
- Put Effort Into Extracurricular Activities. By the time you apply to colleges, you should be able to demonstrate depth and leadership in an extracurricular area.
- Familiarize yourself with the college application. Look over the common application so that you know exactly what information you're going to need when you apply to colleges. You don't want senior year to roll around and only then discover that you have gaping holes in your high school record.
- Visit Colleges and Browse the Web. Your sophomore year is a good time to do some low-pressure exploration of the college options out there. If you find yourself near a campus, stop by and take the tour.
- Start thinking about what factors are important to you in choosing a college—size, location, and availability of extracurricular activities, for example.
 - Update your college planning file—or start one, if you haven't already. You can do this at www.scois.net.
 - Continue extracurricular activities. Remember, many admissions officers look for well-rounded students who participate in the world around them. You don't have to join every club; just find a few activities that you love!
 - If you have room in your schedule, consider a part-time job or volunteer position.
 - Look into participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts and sciences.
 - Keep Reading. This is good advice for any grade. The more you read, the stronger your verbal, writing and critical thinking abilities will be. Reading beyond your homework will help you do well in school, on the ACT and SAT, and in college. You'll be

improving your vocabulary, training your ear to recognize strong language, and introducing yourself to new ideas.

- Have a Summer Plan. There's no formula for what defines a productive summer, but you should make sure you do something that leads to personal growth and valuable experiences. The options are many: volunteer work, a summer music program at a local college, a bike tour down the West Coast, apprenticing with a local politician, living with a host family abroad, and working in the family business . . . whatever your passions and interests, try to plan your summer to tap into them.