



# **THE PREPARED CURRICULUM:**

## **FOR POST-SECONDARY AND CAREER READINESS**

### **Tenth Grade Curriculum**

#### **Course Overview**

During your 10th grade year of high school, it's important to understand that college is more than just an opportunity to learn a particular career field. This decision can mean the difference between the type of lifestyle you live, a low-paying job or a high-paying career. Many studies that have been completed on earnings and education that indicate on average, each year of learning at any stage, from grade school throughout a child's graduate school years, will add over 10 percent to an individual's lifetime earnings. Thus, a four-year college degree can be expected to increase an individual's earnings by almost two-thirds depending on the type of college major that you select. Start planning for college admissions test during 10th grade. Check with your school counselor and request information on the PSAT and the ACT Aspire test. Both tests will help you once you're an 11th grader taking the SAT and ACT tests.

#### **September**

##### **Week 1**

- Program Walkthrough
- Introduction to 10th Grade
- How to Survive 10th Grade
- What is a high school transcript and why is it important?
- Creating Your Three-Year Plan
- Creating your Support Team

##### **Week 2**

- How Colleges View Your High School Transcript
- How to Start your College Search
- Time Management Skills for High School Students
- It's Sophomore Year – Is it time to worry about college?
- The Role of the High School Counselor
- Building your High School Resume
- Evaluate Your Course Load
- Continue Taking Challenging Courses

##### **Week 3**

- Are you ready for your first semester?
- High School Classes for College Prep



- Five Ways College is Different Than High School
- Understanding Your GPA and Class Rank
- What is the Aspire Test?
- What is the PSAT?
- College Admissions Testing – How soon and how often?

#### **Week 4**

- Understanding Local and State Graduation Requirements
- Being Successful Inside and Outside of Class
- What's on your high school transcripts?
- How to Write a College Letter of Interest
- Request Working Papers
- Career Concerns Impact College Degrees
- Job Search Basics
- Career Fairs and Professional Networking

### **October**

#### **Week 1**

- Tenth Grade Student Credit Checklist
- Tenth Grade Goal Setting
- Job Search Basics
- Tips to Get Hired

#### **Week 2**

- Tips for Being Successful in 10th Grade
- Important Job Interview Skills
- Job Interview Questions and Answers

#### **Week 3**

- Creating Your College Calendar
- Test Taking Strategies

#### **Week 4**

- The Importance of a College Degree
- Getting Organized for 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Work



## **November**

### **Week 1**

- Building Your Digital Locker
- Understanding College Admissions
- Finding Information on College Websites (Website Demo)
- The Importance of High School Attendance
- Good High School Discipline

### **Week 2**

- How to Handle Stress
- Better Grades Equals Scholarships

### **Week 3**

- Understanding Your Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Understanding Class Rank

### **Week 4**

- Developing Strong Study Skills
- The Importance of Enrolling in AP and Honors Classes

## **December**

### **Week 1**

- Career Planning Checklist
- Getting Involved in Extracurricular Activities
- How to Choose a College
- Get on Your Colleges Mailing List
- Top 10 Study Skills for Tenth Graders

## **January**

### **Week 1**

- What role will social media play in college admissions?
- Tips for Making Your Classes Count
- Note Taking Strategies and Skills
- Developing Peer Leadership Skills



### **Week 2**

- Building Your College List
- The Importance of the Campus Visit
- Four Steps to Setting Goals
- How to Research a Major

### **Week 3**

- Keeping Balance in Your Life
- Understanding College Costs
- Study Skills for Improving School Success
- Understanding Essay Questions

## **February**

### **Week 1**

- What are Your Post-Secondary Options?
- Finding Your Target Colleges
- Benefits of AP, Honors, and Dual Enrollment Classes
- Understanding College Admissions Types

### **Week 2**

- You Learn Better When You Focus
- Career Planning: Start Early
- Understanding Your Role in Community Service
- Understanding 529 College Savings Plans

### **Week 3**

- Early Decision, Early Action, and Regular Admission
- Ways to Build Your Academic Record
- Understanding Your PSAT Test Scores
- Understanding Your Aspires Test Scores
- Questions to Ask College Recruiters and Admissions Counselors

### **Week 4**

- The Total Cost of a College Education



- Understanding the Role of FAFSA
- Understand the Types of FAFSA and State Grants
- Types of Post-Secondary Institutions Parts 1 and 2

## **March**

### **Week 1**

- Develop your Standardized Testing Plan for Junior Year
- Understanding Professional Judgment in Financial Aid
- Factors that Affect Financial Aid Eligibility

### **Week 2**

- Turning Extracurricular Activities to Scholarship Opportunities
- Learn to Earn
- College vs. Trade School

### **Week 3**

- Admissions Prep
- Organize Your College Prep Activities

### **Week 4**

- Basics for 11th Grade Class Scheduling
- Understanding State Residency Laws
- Making Your Summer Count for Post-Secondary Education

## **April**

### **Week 1**

- Understanding the College Admissions Process
- Start Preparing for College Admissions Test (SAT and ACT)
- The Importance of Attending College Fairs
- What is your college budget?

### **Week 2**

- Recession Proof Careers
- Top 10 Careers for Job Security
- What are your future plans?
- What can you learn from community service?



### **Week 3**

- Building Your Outline for Career Planning
- Wise Choices, Smart Decisions
- Exploring Needs and Wants
- Assertive vs. Unassertive Behaviors

### **Week 4**

- Building your College List
- Planning your Campus Visit
- Getting on Campus
- College Visit Checklist

## **May**

### **Week 1**

- Compare Colleges
- What's Your Top Three Careers
- How to Become an Effective Speaker
- How to Improve Your Critical Thinking Skills

### **Week 2**

- How to Improve Your Reading Comprehension
- How to Use Math to Solve Problems
- How to Use Science to Solve Problems
- How to Write a Research Paper

### **Week 3**

- How to Write Effectively
- Information Organization
- Successful Study Techniques for 11<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Building your College Budget

### **Week 4**

- Build your Financial Aid Plan
- Start Researching Scholarships Now
- Finish High School Strong



- How to Prepare for Final Exams
- Your High School Finals Calendar
- What to Expect in 11<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Transition to 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **Tenth Grade Student Worksheet Samples**

- Campus Map Worksheet
- Career and Education Planning Worksheet
- Career Research Worksheet
- College Fair Worksheet
- College Visit Worksheet
- Course Selection Worksheet
- Grade Point Average Worksheet
- Interesting Careers Worksheet
- Master College Comparison Chart Worksheet
- My Four-Year Plan Worksheet
- Organizational Skills Survey Worksheet
- Progress Check Worksheet
- Recommendation Information Form
- Selecting a College or University Worksheet
- Self-Analysis Leadership Worksheet
- SMART Goals Worksheet
- Time Management Worksheet
- Weekly List of Priorities Worksheet
- Straight to Work Action Steps Worksheet
- Student Attitudes and Motivations Worksheet
- Personal Mission Statement Worksheet
- Student Questionnaire Worksheet
- Student Resume Worksheet
- Study Habit Survey
- Typical Test Scores Worksheet
- What do you want to be? Worksheet



## **Tenth Grade Parent Curriculum Course Overview**

### **September**

#### **Week 1**

- Program Walkthrough
- Attending New Student Orientation
- What will your child learn in 10<sup>th</sup> grade?
- High School Courses that are Required for College Admissions
- The Role of Your Child's School Counselor

#### **Week 2**

- Getting Your 10<sup>th</sup> Grader Organized
- Understanding Local and State Graduation Requirements
- Basic High School Graduation Requirements vs. College Preparation
- What is a high school transcript and why is it important?

#### **Week 3**

- What to Expect in Tenth Grade
- Tenth Grade Credit Check
- Understanding Your Child's Report Card
- Helping Your Child Request Working Papers
- Getting Your Child Noticed by Colleges and Universities

#### **Week 4**

- What are 529 saving plans?
- Is it too late to enroll in a 529 saving plan?
- How to Create a 529 Saving Plan
- Understanding Your Child's Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Understanding Your Child's Class Rank
- Homework Contract
- School Discipline and College Admissions

### **October**

#### **Week 1**

- High School Attendance and College Admissions
- Helping Your 10<sup>th</sup> Grader Build a College List
- Five Most Secure and Lucrative College Majors





## **Week 2**

- Dealing with Parent Teacher Conflict
- How to Help Your Child Find a Job Using Social Media
- Job Search Basics
- Job Interview Tips

## **Week 3**

- Finding Balance for Busy Families
- Tenth Grade Credit Check
- College Planning – When should parents start?
- What are college admissions tests?

## **Week 4**

- Signing Up For the PSAT/Aspire Test
- Continue Helping Your Child Take Challenging Courses
- Honor and AP's for College Readiness
- Tenth Grade Year College Prep Schedule

## **November**

### **Week 1**

- Helping Your Child with Time Management Skills
- Classroom Success That Leads to Scholarships
- How to Research a College or University
- Get Your Child on the Mailing List

### **Week 2**

- Tenth Grade Year College Visits
- What is an academic hardship?
- Better Grades for 10<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Understanding Today's Multitasking Teens

### **Week 3**

- Help Your Teen Reduce Test Stress
- What is your child's learning style?
- High School Math – How Parents Can Help Build Skills
- Help Your 10<sup>th</sup> Grader Enjoy Reading



#### **Week 4**

- Helping Your Child Develop Important Note Taking Skills
- Test Taking Strategies
- Helping Your 10<sup>th</sup> Grader Become a Confident Writer
- Why should you get involved?

### **December**

#### **Week 1**

- Taking College Level Classes Outside of High School
- AP Classes That Count as College Credits
- How to Help Your Child Create a Brag Sheet
- Help Your Child Visit Prospective Colleges and Universities

### **January**

#### **Week 1**

- Campus Tours
- College Board
- ACT Student
- Helping Your Child Write a Letter of Interest to Colleges

#### **Week 2**

- Help Your Child Evaluate His/Her Course Load
- Types of College Admission Requirements
- Early Decision
- Early Action

#### **Week 3**

- Help Your Child Develop a Test Prep Plan
- Start Writing Now Avoid Last Minute Essay Writing Prep
- How to Help your Child Capitalize on College Planning Resources
- What are college fairs?

### **February**

#### **Week 1**

- AP Testing – Consider Taking a Test Early



- Understanding College Admissions Deadlines
- Understanding Housing Application Deadlines
- The Admissions Process – What are colleges looking for?

## **Week 2**

- Preparing Your Child for a College Admissions Interview
- College Essays – Tips and Sample Questions
- Start Searching for Scholarships Now
- Ten Differences Between High School and College

## **Week 3**

- What college resources do you need?
- It's Your Child's Sophomore Year – Is it time to worry about college?
- Helping Your Child Deal with College Admissions Stress
- Competition During the College Admissions Process

## **Week 4**

- Time Management Skills for College Prep
- Is your child a first-generation college bound student?
- Weighing the Importance of College vs. Today's Economic Hardships
- Economy Sparks Increased Interest in Community Colleges

## **March**

### **Week 1**

- Degrees That Get Your Child Hired
- Unemployment Rates Are Lower Among College Graduates
- Degrees with the Highest Starting Salaries
- Career Concerns Impact College Degrees

### **Week 2**

- Figure Out What College Will Really Cost You
- Ten Things You Need to Know About Paying for College
- Top 5 Mistakes Parents Make with Financial Aid
- What is your expected family contribution (EFC)?

### **Week 3**

- Understanding Student Aid – Federal, State and College Aid
- What's a financial aid package?



- Questions to Ask Schools' Financial Aid Offices
- How to Balance Your Child's College Budget

#### **Week 4**

- Five colleges with the Best Job Placement Programs
- Seven Jobs that offer the Best Return on Your Child's College Degree
- Job Search Basics
- How to Find a Job Using Social Media

### **April**

#### **Week 1**

- How Your Child's Facebook and Twitter Can Affect Their Job Search
- Career Fairs and Professional Networking
- Everything You Need to Know About Job References
- Ten Job Search Tips for the Busy Job Seeker

#### **Week 2**

- Job Search Checklist – The Job Search Process Start to Finish
- Resume Tips and Checklist
- How to Write that First Resume
- Sample Resume

#### **Week 3**

- How to Write a Cover Letter
- Sample Cover Letter
- Job Interview Tips
- Preparing for an Interview – Your Job Interview Checklist

#### **Week 4**

- Ten Telephone Interview Tips
- Weird Interview Questions You Might Encounter
- Twenty Top Job Interview Questions and Answers
- Ten Best Questions to Ask During a Job Interview



## **May**

### **Week 1**

- Creating a Final Exam Test Schedule
- Preparing Your Child for Final Exams
- What Not to Do During a Job Interview – Job Interview Mistakes
- Job Offers and How to Help Your Child Negotiate a Salary
- Parent Summer to Do List
- Transiting Your Child to 11<sup>th</sup> Grade