



# **THE PREPARED CURRICULUM: FOR POST-SECONDARY AND CAREER READINESS**

## **Ninth Grade Curriculum**

### **Course Overview**

Since colleges like to see well-rounded students, your 9th grade year of high school is also the time to start thinking about extracurricular activities and careers. Remember that everything counts in high school. It's critical to establish your high school grade point average (GPA) and class rank. Your high school discipline and attendance can have a significant impact on you being admitted into your dream college someday. It's important that you talk with your parents/guardian or a mentor to choose high school activities that you already have a natural interest or ability in such as drama, music, sports, government or community service, etc.

If you have difficulty choosing something and would like to talk with someone other than a parent/ guardian or mentor, you can always talk to your school counselor. He or she can suggest activities that will best fit your skillsets and goals. School counselors can also help you choose activities that take into consideration the type of college and career path you may want to follow in a few years.

### **September**

#### **Week 1**

- Program walkthrough
- Introduction to 9th grade success: parts 1 and 2
- 9th grade student supply list
- How to research colleges
- The role of your school counselor
- How to work with your school counselor for college planning
- Create your post-secondary list
- Build a strong four-year plan

#### **Week 2**

- Building your high school resume



- How to research a college major
- What's a high school transcript and why is it important?
- What is a GPA and why is it important?
- What is class rank and why is it important?
- Start with the end goal in mind
- How to demonstrate your interest to colleges

### **Week 3**

- Build your high school support team
- Basic high school graduation requirements vs. college preparation
- How to ask for help
- Getting organized for 9<sup>th</sup> grade success
- Understanding local and state graduation requirements
- What are college entrance requirements?
- Paying attention during class
- How to learn in a 9<sup>th</sup> grade classroom
- Plan your high school courses wisely
- A checklist for making the most out of high school
- When should I begin college planning?

### **Week 4**

- How to be a good student
- Three new criteria for your college list
- High school preparation for a specific major
- How is college different from high school?
- What are 529 college savings plans?
- Are 529 plans only for my state's public colleges?
- Better grades or more challenging courses?
- How to be consistent with your grades
- The path to high school graduation and beyond
- The importance of good behavior
- Working with others in class
- Extracurricular activities for freshmen
- How to write a high school brag sheet

## **October**

### **Week 1**



- AP classes that count as college credit
- Taking college-level classes outside your high school
- Preparing for college: freshmen year schedule
- How to write a thank you note
- How does modern technology affect college readiness?
- Valedictorians: who are they and how are they chosen?
- How to improve your reading comprehension
- How to write effectively
- What are different types of college degrees?
- The pillars of character
- Community service and you
- How to research colleges?

## **Week 2**

- You're learning style
- Why campus visits are essential for freshmen
- Building a positive relationship with your teachers
- Extracurricular activities for freshmen
- Know the basics for class scheduling in high school
- Introduction to college planning
- Which college resources do you need?
- Extracurricular activities and college admissions

## **Week 3**

- Four steps to effective goal setting
- Tips for effective studying
- The GPA myth
- College admissions: do private schools have an advantage? (Part I and II)
- What is the PSAT?
- What is the Aspire test?
- Understanding your first report card
- What are College admissions test?
- Stress reduction tips

## **Week 4**

- Challenging high school courses
- Completing homework assignments
- Meetings with your school counselor



- What is financial aid?
- What is career planning?
- Being a good leader
- Understanding college costs

## **November**

### **Week 1**

- Questions to ask your school counselor
- Building your first college list
- Researching your college options
- Handling peer pressure
- Starting a new club or activity
- What is a college major?
- What is a college minor?

### **Week 2**

- Tips for researching your college major
- Career planning checklist
- Important steps for planning your career
- Weighing the importance of college vs. today's economic hardships
- What are the most in demand careers? (Parts 1 and 2)

### **Week 3**

- 9 ways to stop homework distractions
- Time management tips
- Tips for writing research papers
- What's a good academic record for college?
- Important decision-making tips

### **Week 4**

- Strengthen your academic skills
- 5 strategies to solve difficult test questions
- Why go to college?
- Public speaking tips



## December

### Week 1

- College admissions overview
- Types of college admissions
- The benefits available for low-income students
- Are you a first-generation college bound student?
- Tips to increase your vocabulary
- Textbook reading tips
- 6 test-taking errors to avoid

## January

### Week 2

- Are you an effective learner?
- Important organizational skills
- Get organized and have good time management skills
- High school classes that colleges and universities look at

### Week 3

- Long-term planning and timing
- Working out priorities
- Looking back on what you've done

### Week 4

- Seven steps for dealing with problems
- Setting up your study area
- What type of leader are you?

## February

### Week 1

- Give a friend a hand
- What is academic integrity?
- Taking responsibility



## **Week 2**

- Developing good writing habits
- How to think critically
- The importance of good study habits

## **Week 3**

- Improve your listening skills
- Tips for foreign language classes
- Reading a highlighted written test

## **Week 4**

- How to answer essay questions
- Prepare for college expenses now
- Sharpen your writing skills
- Sharpen your reading skills

## **March**

### **Week 1**

- 9<sup>th</sup> grade test-taking tips
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade note-taking tips
- Note-taking techniques

### **Week 2**

- High school discipline and college admissions
- High school attendance and college admissions
- Test-taking strategies

### **Week 3**

- Multiple choice exam tips
- Important exam hints
- Studying for particular courses such as, biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics

### **Week 4**



- Understanding the pros and cons of state universities
- Understanding your high school report card
- The importance of studying a foreign language

## **April**

### **Week 1**

- Introduction to college planning: parts 1 and 2
- Make the grade on test day

### **Week 2**

- Research college/post-secondary costs
- Identify important factors in choosing a college
- Think about your reasons for going to college

### **Week 3**

- College planning when should I start?
- What are college admissions tests?
- Why AP and honor classes matter
- Navigating a college or university website
- Make a college mailing list
- When to start college planning visits

### **Week 4**

- Write a letter of interest to colleges
- Types of college admissions
- The more you learn, the more you earn
- Community service and college admissions
- Start thinking about reasons to attend college

## **May**

### **Week 1**

- How to respect yourself and others



- Best places to study
- Concentration tips
- The importance of college visits
- Summer vacations and college admissions

## **Week 2**

- Steps in planning your career
- Jobs and internships: what's on your resume?
- You can afford to attend college
- Questions to ask and be prepared to answer during a campus visit
- Career planning tips
- Researching your top three careers

## **Week 3**

- Researching college scholarships/requirements
- Understanding state residency laws
- Volunteering, community service and college admissions
- Volunteer work: why you should lend a hand
- When to start thinking about financial aid
- Talking with your parents about college expectations
- Decision making and problem solving
- Difference between a weighted and unweighted GPA

## **Week 4**

- Four things to do in the four years before college
- What is a budget?
- Visiting college campuses
- Glossary of important college terms
- What to expect in 10<sup>th</sup> grade?
- Transition to 10<sup>th</sup> grade





## **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Worksheet Samples**

- High School Planning Worksheet
- Assignments Worksheet
- Class Schedule
- Course of Study: Four Year Plan
- 4-Year Graduation Plan Worksheet
- Student Activity Sheet
- Volunteering and Community Service Log Worksheet
- Noteworthy Activities Worksheet
- Achievements Worksheet
- High School Course of Study Checklist
- GPA Planning Worksheet
- Post-Secondary Planning Worksheet
- High School Transcript Worksheet
- Mid-Semester Grade/Progress Check
- Setting Smart Goals
- Study Skills Student Inventory
- Student Homework Tracker\*
- 20 Memory Techniques
- Time Waster Survey
- College Research Worksheet
- College and University Comparison Worksheet for 9<sup>th</sup> Graders
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Time Management Student Survey
- Planning Your 168-Hour School and Work Week
- Creating a Seven-Step Study Skills Plan
- Time Management Worksheet



## **Ninth Grade Parent Curriculum Course Overview**

### **September**

#### **Week 1**

- Program walkthrough
- Attending new student orientation
- Helping your child choose the best 9<sup>th</sup> grade schedule
- What parents should expect during 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade year checklist
- How to pay for your child's college education?
- Helping your child build a strong four-year high school plan
- How to join your child's school PTA
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade is critical for future success
- Building a parent success network
- What are GPA and class rank?

#### **Week 2**

- Grade 9 curriculum and course information
- Make college an expectation at home
- Social media and college admissions
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade matters for college admissions
- High school proficiency exams are required
- What will my child learn in 9<sup>th</sup> grade?
- Understanding your child's local and state graduation requirements
- Homework tips for your child

#### **Week 3**

- What are Pennsylvania 529 plans?
- Select the right 529 plan
- Building your child's first college list
- How to get a college or university to notice your child
- Get on the mailing list
- Help your 9<sup>th</sup> grader get organized
- Attendance matters



#### **Week 4**

- Help your child identify interests in and outside of class
- Anticipate your child's tuition costs
- Make sure your child chooses the right courses for college prep
- Plan career goals

### **October**

#### **Week 1**

- Help your child build a high school resume
- Help your child become successful inside the classroom
- Help your child become successful outside of the classroom
- Help your child with important organizational skills
- Help your child with time management skills

#### **Week 2**

- Understanding your child's first report card
- The high school counselor's role
- Sketch out a comprehensive academic program
- Get your child involved in community service

#### **Week 3**

- Attend parent teacher conferences
- School discipline and college admissions
- Build a positive relationship with your child's teachers
- Meet with your child's school counselor

#### **Week 4**

- The path to college and career readiness
- What are study skills?
- Academic planning for high school success
- Reasons your child should consider college



## **November**

### **Week 1**

- College readiness calendar for parents
- Help your child prepare for final exams
- Create a final exam study schedule

### **Week 2**

- Attend parent teacher conferences
- Schedule a campus visit
- College planning glossary
- Mapping out your child's long-term plan
- 7 things you need to know about financial aid

### **Week 3**

- Keep your child motivated for success
- What is the total cost of education?
- Research the net price of a college or university
- What are college admissions tests?
- What are grants and scholarships?

### **Week 4**

- Prepare your child for the PSAT
- Prepare your child for the Aspire test
- Track your child's accomplishments
- SAT vs. ACT
- The new SAT
- Find money for college



## **December**

### **Week 1**

- Courses and credit counts
- Homework tips
- Signing the homework contract
- Explore career research

## **January**

### **Week 2**

- The importance of honors and advance placement courses
- Extracurricular activities and your child's list of classes
- What are colleges?
- What are universities?

### **Week 3**

- What's a college major?
- What's a college minor?
- Ask for help for your child
- Plan a setting goals meeting with your 9<sup>th</sup> grader
- Build a foundation for educational success

### **Week 4**

- Types of college and university admissions options
- Types of programs available at colleges and universities

## **February**

### **Week 1**

- Help your 9<sup>th</sup> grader research a college major
- Build a college going culture at home
- High school classes that colleges and universities require



## **Week 2**

- Careers vs. jobs
- Saving for college
- Getting your child admitted

## **Week 3**

- Getting the facts on college admissions
- Create a to-do list
- Help your 9<sup>th</sup> grader follow the road to college
- Set the stage for dreams to become reality

## **Week 4**

- How to pay for college
- Preparing your child for college visits
- Understanding college costs
- Helping your child research careers

## **March**

### **Week 1**

- Preparing your student for college
- What are college entrance exams?
- College-prep or tech-prep classes?

### **Week 2**

- The importance of community service and college admissions
- Parents' and students' post-secondary preparation
- Post-secondary planning timeline
- Encourage "soft skills" for college readiness

### **Week 3**

- How to pay for your child's college education
- Do's and don'ts of using college rankings
- College rankings aren't everything
- Help prepare your child for 10<sup>th</sup> grade



#### **Week 4**

- AP/honor classes: an introduction
- What is career awareness?
- Understanding college costs
- Prepare your child for final exams
- Create a final exam study schedule

### **April**

#### **Week 1**

- 7 things you need to know about financial aid
- Help your child explore careers that match his or her interests
- College search step-by-step

#### **Week 2**

- Learn about your child's post-secondary options
- Most popular college majors
- Understanding accelerated college degrees
- Rigor and relevance

#### **Week 3**

- 5 most secure and lucrative college majors
- Help your child with college prep and planning
- College prep -- your child and extracurricular activities
- College acceptance types

#### **Week 4**

- Prepare your child for the campus visit
- Most demanding careers
- The relationship between education and earnings
- Learn about college and make your 9<sup>th</sup> grade summer count
- Which college admissions test will my child take during 10<sup>th</sup> grade?
- Help your child stay motivated this summer
- Help your student transition to 10<sup>th</sup> grade