

Step 1: Start with your WHY.

What do you want to accomplish/do when you graduate from high school?

Why is it important to you that you accomplish this goal?

The 5 main things 4-year schools will look for:

1. Unweighted & weighted GPA
2. Rigor of your course load (*you'll want 3-6 AP or DE classes to be competitive for 4-year schools*)
3. SAT/ACT scores
4. Leadership & life experience – co-curriculars and paid experience
5. Project-oriented community service

Admission committees will also consider:

1. Strength of your letters of recommendation
2. Strength of your personal statement/essay

Tips & Requirements:

- Make sure both your School Counselor and your College and Career Counselor know that are working toward 4-year college admission
- Meet with your College & Career Counselor starting in your 9th grade year to create a personalized plan and discuss your goals.
- Take **at least** 4 years of each subject (math, science, English, social studies). *You should have these classes in your schedule every year.*
- Take **a minimum of 2 consecutive years** of the same foreign language
- Take Honors classes (A "B" in Honors is better than an "A" in a regular class)
- Look carefully into the pros and cons of dual enrollment and AP classes. Choose what is best for **YOU** when the time comes. (The most competitive college applicants have at least 4-6 of these classes).
- Don't slack off and settle for Bs and Cs if you're capable of earning the A.
- Make sure you take math through **at least** Algebra 2.
- Do your best to find a balance. Challenge yourself, but do not overrun yourself. *This is a marathon, not a sprint.*

Step 2: Make a plan.

Step 3: Continue to update your plan as your interests and experiences change.

	High School Credits Earned in Middle School	9 th Grade <i>Get involved in activities that interest you! Earn good grades.</i>	10 th Grade <i>Focus on quality over quantity in your activities. Take on leadership roles in your activities! Prep for ACT/SAT and explore opportunities for community service.</i>	11 th Grade <i>This is your last year to accomplish anything for your college application! Be sure you have life experience outside the classroom – work, school involvement, and/or community service.</i>	12 th Grade <i>Maintain a full, rigorous class schedule. Finish documenting community service hours. Your goal is 100 hours for 4 years of high school.</i>
ELA					
Science					
Math <i>(you need through Algebra 2 for admission to a 4-year college)</i>					
History/Social Studies					
Elective #1 <i>(consider CTE Pathway)</i>					
Elective #2					
Elective #3					
Co-Curriculars <i>(school involvement)</i>	X				
Community Service	X				
Work Experience	X				