

Get Focused Freshmen

True, it is only your first year in high school, but as a Freshman, you can still take steps to make sure you stay on the right path for your future.

1. Create a plan.

- Develop good study habits and begin thinking about what you want to accomplish in the next four years.
- Your ideas will probably change over the years, but begin thinking about what you will do after high school.

2. Get involved.

- Determine what you are interested in – not just at school.
- Participate in church ministry and community service activities.
- Colleges look at extra-curricular activities as well as grades and test scores.
- If you are not sure you want to participate in a sport or club, find an adult to ask what it is all about.

3. Meet with your high school counselor.

- When you have a question, ask. There are no ‘dumb’ questions.
- Find out if additional resources and study aids are available.

4. Get focused.

- Create a resume that outlines your achievements, accomplishments, extra-curricular activities, church/community service involvement, and work experience.
- Keep important notes from classes that will help you in the future.
- Begin exploring options for college and studying for the SAT.

5. Save for college and search for summer opportunities.

- It is never too early to start saving for college or looking for jobs that may interest you.
- Find volunteer positions that will help you learn about a field of interest.

Become familiar with the following websites:

www.gacollege411.org (general college information)
www.collegeboard.com (SAT practice and registration)
www.actstudent.org (registration for ACT)
www.ecampustours.com (virtual college campus tours)
www.cappex.com (general help with college questions)

Make sure if you create an account to keep the username and password somewhere you will remember it. You will use some of these accounts each year in high school.

Following are additional websites where you may find great sources for private scholarships and other types of financial aid.

www.finaid.org

www.fastweb.org

www.scholarships101.com

www.scholarships.com

www.college.scholarships.com

www.collegeboard.com

www.studentaid.ed.gov

www.coca-colascholars.org (The Coca-Cola Foundation)

www.horatioalger.com/scholarships (The Horatio Alger Association)