

FRESHMAN YEAR COLLEGE PLANNING COUNTDOWN

√	September
	Welcome to high school! Your guidance department is here to serve you and help you succeed!
	Find out who your counselor is and introduce yourself.
	Find out how to make an appointment to see your counselor. <i>Make at least 2 appointments this year!</i>
	Your counselor can help you with questions and concerns in the following areas: Academics, Career Decision Making, Testing and Test Results, Personal Issues, and Graduation Requirements.
	Memorize the graduation requirements for your graduating class.
	Go for it! Throughout high school, take challenging courses in English, math, science, social studies and foreign language.
	Listen carefully during the freshman orientation assembly. You will hear about many new things such as graduation requirements, grade point average (GPA), credits and service learning hours.
	October
	Develop strong study skills – Learn how to study – Your counselor has more information and this is an important topic in the Pathfinder course.
	Use the student planner provided by your school or purchase one.
	Attend a college fair.
	Study, study, study – Make the best grades you can!
	Get involved – check out clubs, music, art, athletics, JROTC and other extracurricular activities.
	November
	Get organized – Time management is so important in high school and life!
	Talk to your family about saving money for your schooling or training after you graduate.
	Organize a quiet place at home for studying.
	December
	Find out what it takes to qualify for a TOPS Scholarship and plan accordingly (Louisiana residents only).
	Ask your teachers for tips on class note taking and work at it.
	January
	Prepare for your exams! That means don't miss class, do homework, listen to the teacher, participate and study!
	February
	Should you begin to earn service-learning hours? Remember, it's a graduation requirement.
	Try to volunteer in a field you would like to explore as a career possibility.
	Use your student planner every day! Be organized.
	March
	Talk to your parents and counselor about your future , your career choices, and paying for future education.
	Make careful course selections for 10 th grade. Consult with parents, teachers and counselor.

	April
	Identify teachers, administrators, counselors, and other adults (religious leader or employer) who would be willing to write letters of recommendation. You will need these letters your senior year.
	Continue to work on your study habits and time management skills .
	May
	Plan your summer. Have fun and consider volunteer work, summer school or summer programs.
	Find out how to write a resume and make that a summer project.
	Review your course selection for 10 th grade one more time!
	Study for your exams. Make the best grades you can!
	June/July/August
	Read, read, read over the summer!
	Don't forget your math – review to strengthen your skills! Organize a summer math study group.
	Work on your resume this summer and give it to your counselor.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Check out these websites this summer or anytime!</p> <p>Career Planning: www.mapping-your-future.org/planning/ Louisiana state universities and community colleges: www.lacrao.uno.edu TOPS Scholarship (Louisiana Residents Only): www.osfa.state.la.us/schgrt6.htm ACT: www.ACT.org College Board: www.collegeboard.org College Search: www.collegeview.com College Search: www.braintrack.com FastWEB Scholarship Database: www.Fastweb.com</p>