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FRESHMAN YEAR

- Get off to a great start academically! The grades you achieve in 9th grade are the foundation for your cumulative grade point average & your high school academic record.
- Be actively engaged in your learning—stretch yourself & your expectations.
- Learn how to manage your time, utilize your teachers, and polish your study skills.
- Strengthen your vocabulary by reading a variety of literary genres.
- Learn your username and password for College in Colorado so that you can update your profile throughout high school.
- Learn about a variety of colleges and other options. Research career possibilities and what kind of education will be required.
- Become familiar with college admissions requirements & if interested in playing college sports, learn about NCAA eligibility. Be proactive about your future by being informed.
- Explore extracurricular opportunities & begin to get involved--join clubs, activities, & service organizations that match your interests. This is a good time to explore & expand your understanding of who you are---what are your strengths? How can you access community resources to learn about a career field? Find out about opportunities to develop leadership skills.
- Consider taking Subject tests in an academic area that is a strength, either in May or June.
- Spend your summer **actively** pursuing interests. During Spring Semester, discover opportunities for volunteering and/or enrichment activities that may be of interest. Keep a record of activities, responsibilities, & awards or recognition. Add this information to your College in Colorado Account.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

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- You will take the PSAT, a “practice” test for the one of the college admission tests, the SAT. Go over the results of this test with your parents & learn from what the questions you missed.
- Take the initiative to explore the breadth of information on College in Colorado in addition to the activities you are responsible for as part of your MacLaren ICAP.
- Review the activities you were involved with as a 9th grader & select a few to continue with. Try something new; make sure you are an **active** member in a few activities & not just a joiner of many!
- Begin researching scholarship opportunities to learn what you will need to do to be a strong candidate. There are “essay scholarships” that are open to high school students that you might consider entering.
- Access the resources that can help you research summer activities & mentoring possibilities. What experiences or activities will help you develop & demonstrate your goals & interests?
- Consider taking Subject tests in an academic area that is a strength, either in May or June.