

What you can do to get ready for College as a Sophomore

- Make as high of a grade as possible in all your classes – the higher your grades, the higher your rank. Colleges are looking for students who are in the top half of their class – aim to be there!
- Take the most challenging course work possible. Colleges not only look at GPA/Rank but they look at the types of courses taken. These challenging courses also help you prepare for the ACT/SAT. These are standardized tests that colleges use to help determine student admissions.

www.collegeboard.com (SAT) www.act.org (ACT)

- Join school activities!! Colleges look for well rounded, committed individuals who show some leadership skills!
- Volunteer!! Community service is becoming more and more important in the college admissions process. Community service is not a graduation requirement for FISD but students are recognized for their documented service at graduation.
- Keep a list of school activities, honors, awards, employment, volunteer work, community activities, etc. You can add these to your Family Connection resume.
- READ, READ, READ! It's a great way to increase your SAT/ACT scores.
- Take PLAN in fall of 10th grade. This is a practice ACT test. Offered at Centennial HS on Nov. 14th. See your counselor to sign up.
- Take **PSAT** in October. This is a practice SAT test and it begins the process for the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Currently, all 10th grade students are required to test at no cost.
- Begin to explore and discuss college options. The internet is a wonderful resource for exploring your options. Also, Family Connection has great resources for college searches.
- Plan your junior year carefully. Know your graduation plan: Recommended, DAP, or Regular.
 - Be sure you are enrolled in classes required by the **RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM** or the **DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM** to help make sure you're ready for college-level courses and to improve your chances for a **TEXAS Grant**.
 - **Parents**· Monitor your child's academic progress. Make sure you see all 3 week and 6 week reports. Do not assume someone will call you if there is a problem. Provide encouragement and support. Help monitor your students' academic progress through the Home Access Center (HAC). If you need list of tutors, these can be provided to you through the counseling office. Encourage your son or daughter to become involved in a wide variety of activities. Volunteer work and community service are important. Keep a list of activities –including dates. Your student will be able to add these to their Family Connection. Help your son or daughter plan meaningful summer activities. Make plans for your child to take a class, play organized sports, develop a hobby, work, volunteer, etc. Some summer programs are listed in Family Connection.