

## What you can do to get ready for College as a Freshman

- Remember that everything starts to “count” beginning freshman year. You can have the biggest impact on your GPA/Rank this year more than any other year.
- 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](http://www.collegeboard.com) (SAT)

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org) (ACT)

Please, plan your high school years carefully. Know your graduation plan: Recommended, DAP, or Regular. Being on the 4x4 graduation plan doesn't allow for many boo boos, especially for athletes. If you fail a course, it is **HIGHLY** recommended that you attend summer school.

- 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**.
- 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.
  - Begin keeping a list of school activities, honors, awards, employment, volunteer work, community activities, etc. This info can be documented in Family Connection.
  - READ, READ, READ! It's a great way to increase your SAT/ACT scores.

## 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. It is very important that you encourage your student in attending tutorials from the first sign of difficulty. 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. Students that are involved in school activities generally make better grades. 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.