

Freshman Things to Know and Do
(from your Guidance Counselors)
2008-2009

Congratulations! You are in high school now! Make sure you:

August - September

- Register/pick up schedule during Fact and Fees Days prior to the first day of school.
- Attend the Link Crew Freshman Orientation on Saturday, August 16, 2008.
- Attend the Administrator's grade level presentation during the first week of school.
- Remember every grade you get in your high school courses count towards your Grade Point Average (GPA). This determines your rank in class. Your GPA is very important for college admission and scholarships.
- Challenge yourself academically throughout the entire year.
- Set long term goals, (i.e. Being promoted to the ten grade)
- Set short term goals, (i.e. Making an A on your Global Studies test next week)
- Read your school's handbook (Make sure you understand policies applying to attendance, tardies, dress code, discipline, etc.). Make ensure you adhere to the policies to avoid getting in trouble.
- Now is a good time to explore extra-curriculum activities. Get involved in organizations.
- Meet your counselors: Mrs. Jones (A-K) & Dr. Balcome (L-Z)
We are located on the Freshman Hall.

October – December

- Start thinking about postsecondary goals and possible career options.
- Be present for our annual Freshman Academy Career Day. This will take place at school on Wednesday, October 15th. (Great opportunity for you to learn about various occupations/jobs you may be interested in.)
- Encourage your parents/guardians to attend your Individual Graduation Planning (IGP) conference when scheduled.
- During your IGP meetings, you will pick your classes for next year. Please choose electives carefully. You want to make should you pick electives within your Career Cluster as well as college prep (if you are considering a 4 year college right after high school)
- Explore career possibilities by taking interests inventories via SCOIS, Kuder, etc.
- Start thinking about and researching colleges to determine ones that will suit your career interests.

- Think about the kinds of things you like to do. Think about how they might develop into a college major or career.
- Talk with your favorite teacher or counselor about your interests and get their advice.
- Talk with our Career Development Facilitator, Mr. Evans concerning possible job shadowing opportunities. Mr. Evans is located in the main Guidance office.

January – February

- Prepare for Midterm exams
 - Talk with your teachers concerning the best way to study for each one of your courses.
 - Obtain study guides etc.
 - Stop by Guidance to obtain good Study Skills' Tips
- You will receive a new Curriculum Guide in January or February listing all the courses we plan to offer for next year. Note possible changes you would like to make to your schedule for next year.

March – May

- Continue to study; do your best on all final exams.
- Be present for End of Course (EOC) test in May:
Algebra 1 – 5/22, Physical Science – 5/26, & English – 5/27.
- Be sure to finalize course and/or make changes to course selections by the last day of school.
- If you need or plan to attend Summer School, see your counselor, Mrs. Jones (A-K) or Dr. Balcome (L-Z) for registration information in mid-May.

Well done! You made it through your 1st year of high school. Enjoy your summer! Relax and have fun!