College Prep Checklist – 9th Grade

To best prepare for college, certain steps and procedures must be accomplished prior to enrollment. This is a chronological checklist designed to help assist in being well-organized and as ready as possible for college. See the College Prep Resources for additional information.

**August through October**

_____ Focus on academics! Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA.
_____ Visit high school counselor for appropriate freshman schedule.
_____ List the top 6 desired colleges along with the top 4 desired majors.
_____ Join various school- and community-based activities, clubs, and/or sports.
_____ A social security number (SSN) is required. Contact local social security office. See College Information: SSN.
_____ Create an interest and learning style inventory profile; update yearly. See Career: Kuder Navigator.
_____ Consider taking a concurrent credit or digital learning course. See College Information: SouthArk.

**November through January**

_____ Attend local college and career fairs in addition to any financial aid seminars.
_____ Draft a resume including any special awards, honors, and certificates. See College Information: Resume Builder.
_____ Review websites that help to prepare students and families for college expenses. See Financial Aid FAQ.
_____ View virtual campus tours, student photos, and degree information on different college websites.

**February through June**

_____ Stay up-to-date with all required shots and immunizations; retain a copy of shot records.
_____ Finalize sophomore class schedule by end of May, making sure all classes align with graduation requirements.
_____ Begin to collect personal milestones for an education portfolio.
_____ Request college recommendation letters from teachers, coaches, and other mentors for college applications.
_____ State test(s) must be passed at the end of grade level to advance to the next grade and/or to graduate.

**Summer after Freshman Year**

_____ Having a summer job will help with saving for college.
_____ Explore summer volunteer opportunities in the career area of interest.
_____ Enroll in a summer school class if a required class was not passed during the year.
_____ Take a college campus tour, if vacationing to a new city or town.
_____ Register no later than August to take the PSAT in October. See Testing: PSAT.

www.southark.edu/student-services/college-transition