



# Freshman and Sophomore Year Checklists

It's never too early to start planning for college!

- ✓ **Keep in mind what colleges look for:**
  - A strong GPA
  - Challenging curriculum
  - Standardized tests (SAT, ACT, SAT Subject Tests)
  - Involvement in extracurricular activities (school and community)
  
- ✓ **Select a challenging curriculum (Pre-AP, AP, Honors or Dual Enrollment classes) and keep your grades up in all classes!!!! These particular courses could help improve your GPA and class ranking.**
  
- ✓ **Make plans to visit the colleges and universities that you are interested in applying to and attend local college fairs.**
  
- ✓ **Search for scholarships! Monthly scholarship bulletin at [www.varelahighschool.org](http://www.varelahighschool.org) . Search form more scholarship information at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). Check out the Scholarship page at your local school. Scholarships are not always just for seniors.**
  
- ✓ **Start your resume – Things to include:**
  - Keep records of extracurricular activities.
  - Do volunteer work, internships, or attend a program at a college or university.
  - Get involved! Join some clubs or athletic teams; you will enjoy school much more. Colleges are looking for students how stay involved in their school and community. Don't forget to keep track of everything you are involved in on your resume.
  
- ✓ **Planning to play sports in college? Be familiar with the NCAA requirements visit [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net) .**
  
- ✓ **Study for the PSAT at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Many of your schools will offer this in October.**
  
- ✓ **Plan to take the SAT and ACT in the spring of Junior year. Take free prep courses on-line. [www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com), [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com), [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com), [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)**
  
- ✓ **Research career opportunities at [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)**
  
- ✓ **READ, READ, READ... reading will help you build your vocabulary**