

Parent Orientation 9th-10th Grades



The Calvary

A C A D E M Y

Welcome to High School

Congratulations! Your student just entered the four most important years of their K-12 educational experience. Here's what to expect and how to thrive during the next four years.

HIGH SCHOOL JARGON

- ❖ **ACT** = American College Test – A required entrance test for many colleges and universities especially in the Mid-West
- ❖ **Core Course** – a required course by the state of Ohio
- ❖ **Credit** – unit earned upon successful completion of a high school course.; Ohio requires that students earn 20 credits before graduation
- ❖ **Elective Course** -- a non-core course that is used to prepare students to engage in a global world; they are interest based designed to prepare and introduce students to various fields and topics of study
- ❖ **Extra-Curricular Activity** – an activity that is non-school related
- ❖ **GPA** = Grade Point Average – computed based upon the number of courses taken and the grades earned within those courses; GPA is based off a 4.0 scale
- ❖ **PSAT** = Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test – practice test for the SAT; it is also used to qualify juniors for National Merit Scholarships
- ❖ **Pre-ACT** = Preliminary ACT Test – practice test for the ACT
- ❖ **SAT** = Scholastic Aptitude Test – an alternative entrance test for many colleges and universities
- ❖ **Scholarship** – Free money for college
- ❖ **Transcript** – a report of your grades, attendance, college entrance test scores, and achievements earned throughout your high school career

MY NEW ACADEMIC LIFE

- ❖ In high school, learning becomes more independent. Courses become more project oriented, and learning good research and note-taking skills is a must.
- ❖ You will spend more time learning about social topics that affect your world socially, economically and politically.
- ❖ You will also begin to develop your own opinion about these topics and discuss them from various points of view.
- ❖ You will be required to think more abstractly versus concretely. No longer will you be able to give one correct and solid answer. You will be expected to have an opinion and defend that position.
- ❖ A couple of the most important lessons to learn at this age are the value of **SHOWING** your work and **SAVING** your work. Use a cloud-based storage system or a flashdrive to save everything that you work on. Do not throw anything away until the end of each academic year. At the end of the year look through your files, evaluate whether you will need them in years to come or not, and purge any excess.

SETTING GOOD GOALS

- ❖ It's time to start really considering your future.
- ❖ Set high goals, yet realistic goals. Do you want to go to a four year university or do prefer a smaller environment that a local community college provides?
- ❖ Start doing research now so that in your upperclassmen years you can move forward on a path that you feel comfortable with.
- ❖ Make a list of what you hope to accomplish during your time in high school. Put it somewhere where you'll see it every day, and work toward those goals.

OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

- ❖ This is a great time to start a part-time job. Not only will you earn a little extra spending cash, but it is an invaluable experience in learning responsibility, how to manage your time, and how to manage your money.
- ❖ In your sophomore year, you will have the opportunity to start driving. When you get your license and a vehicle, be smart! Having a license doesn't mean you are completely free. If you get into trouble or an accident, it is likely your license may be revoked for a period of time, and the fees are hefty for young drivers.
- ❖ Get involved! Find something you like to do and connect with others who share the same interest. Colleges look to see if you have been involved in your community and have developed your own personal interests. If you like to sing, join a choir. If you like to play an instrument, join a band. If you like sports, find a team to play on. If you like animals, volunteer at a rescue shelter. Find something, and do it!
- ❖ Remember parents, high school students will continue separating from their family unit. Their group of friends will be who they go to for advice, and they will be who your student wants to spend their time with.

A FAR LOOK AHEAD – GRADUATION!

- ❖ While you may think you're simply a freshmen or sophomore, now is the opportune time to start planning for graduation and beyond.
- ❖ Set up a binder or file system to keep track of important school work, extracurricular activities and awards.
- ❖ We are a college-preparatory school; therefore, following our class schedule will set you on the right track for meeting requirements for college. However, being a small school, we don't offer a wide variety of electives. Keep your grades high so that in your upperclassmen years you have the opportunity to pursue Post-Secondary Education Options such as College Credit Plus to diversify your educational experience. Not only will you enjoy it, but you will glean a lot of invaluable experience and information about how college courses operate. In addition, having college courses on your high school transcript puts you a step ahead of the rest in your college admittance process.
- ❖ Begin to start thinking and preparing for how you will pay for your college experience. Do you want to pursue scholarships? Begin research now. Find the qualifications and begin doing things to meet those requirements.
- ❖ Set up a professional email account. Colleges will begin sending you information and doing research on you beginning in your freshmen year. Make a good first impression. SusieQ@gmail.com says that you are responsible and mature while SusieQ&her3tddybrs@gmail.com says you are stuck in an elementary mindset.

- ❖ It is also imperative to begin monitoring what you post on your social media sites: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TicToc. Colleges do and will check these sites for more information about you. It is not about you having a place to express yourself. What goes up on the internet stays up on the internet, and it will come back to haunt you if you post inappropriately.
- ❖ Utilize your summers! This is a great time for volunteer work, getting a part-time job, or doing different events and activities that will allow you to diversify your interests and help prepare you for college.

SPECIAL NOTE TO THE PARENTS

- ❖ Don't check out now!
- ❖ These last four years are extremely important in the development of your student and their path as an adult after high school.
- ❖ Your involvement is critical! Work together with your student over these next four years to develop a plan that is right for your student and your family. College? Workforce? Community College? Travel? The options are endless.
- ❖ We will work our hardest to ensure that your student has access to these multiple opportunities and options. Please partner with us and work your hardest to make sure that these opportunities and options are seized.
- ❖ Work alongside your student to make sure they are meeting deadlines and learning to manage their jobs, social life and school well. Don't be afraid to set limits on how much time they are allowed to spend outside of the home, and establish consequences should your student step over these limits.
- ❖ Remember they are still a teen and are still in need of your guidance and a listening ear.



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Graduation Projection (Class of 20__) College Prep Diploma -					
	<i>9th - 201/201</i>	<i>10th - 201/201</i>	<i>11th - 201/201</i>	<i>12th - 201/201</i>	
	Required by State of Ohio				
English	4 credits				
Health	½ credit				
Math	4 credits * ½ Financial Literacy				
Phy Ed	½ credit				
Science	3 credits				
Soc Stud	3 credits * ½ credit US History * ½ credit Am Government * ½ Economics				
Electives	½ credit fine arts (2 semesters required)				
Electives	3 credits World Language				
Electives	1 ½ credit				
TOTAL	MIN - 20 credits				
Additional Activities					
	COM. SERV. Pre-ACT	25 F	COM. SERV. CAREER SHADOW Pre-act	25 1 F	COM. SERV. Pre-ACT ACT COL. VISIT
					25 F 2
					COM. SERV. ACT SENIOR PLAN
					25 F

**** ACT REMEDIATION FREE SCORES:
 English (Comp) = 18
 Reading (Social Science) = 22
 Math (College Algebra) = 22
 Science (Biology) = 23

Prepared on __/__/20__
 S. Bienz