



College prep timeline for 9th graders

AUGUST

- Build that vocabulary! Use flash cards, online tools, or post a list on your fridge.
- Set the tone for high school. Academics, health, and extracurriculars are all important.

Also this month...



Help your teen learn time management. Help your teen learn to use digital tools and a planner to keep track of their schedule and homework and plan their time.



Encourage involvement. Kids who participate in extracurriculars have higher self-esteem, get better grades, and are more likely to graduate from college.

SEPTEMBER

- Make sure your teen's classes meet both graduation *and* college admission requirements.
- Prop those STEM doors open. Encourage your teen to take an interesting STEM class, join a club, or participate in a STEM activity in or outside of school.

Also this month...



Talk about grades. Explain that colleges will see this year's grades and that this is the easiest year to earn a high GPA. (Also, it's easier to earn good grades now than to boost their GPA later).

OCTOBER

- Help your child become a strong test taker. Teach your teen to self-test when they study and to use test-taking strategies, such as reading the entire test before starting, reading questions closely, eliminating wrong answers on multiple-choice tests, and more.

Also this month...



If your child will be a first-generation college student, make your teen's college goal clear to their high school counselor and ask what resources may be available. Make sure your child's courses are challenging and put them on a path to college.

NOVEMBER

- Look for opportunities for your teen to practice their group discussion skills.
- Think about which honors or AP courses your teen is interested in taking next year.

For more info on the college admissions process, check out the full interactive timeline at GreatSchools.org/gk/9th-grade-college-prep/.

DECEMBER

Support your teen as they study for finals by making sure they eat well, get enough rest, and study effectively by testing themselves as they go.

JANUARY

Encourage your teen to get involved in extracurriculars. Now is a great time to explore what they're interested in (e.g. sports, activities, clubs) and join in.

Also this month...



Have your teen take a personality test online. It's a great way to get your teen thinking about careers and college majors they want to work toward.

FEBRUARY

Check out a career day to help your teen learn more about possible career paths.
 Think about summer plans that include work, volunteer and/or learning opportunities.

Also this month...



Choose classes wisely. Encourage your teen to create a class schedule for next year that includes challenging courses and electives that cultivate their talents and interests.



Investigate what college will cost. Use the Dept. of Education's net cost calculator to see how much need-based funding your child is likely to get.

MARCH - APRIL

Visit a college campus to give your teen a taste of the college environment.
 Keep track of your teen's accomplishments. Note dates, official names of awards or prizes, and a few details. This information will help come college application time.

Also this month...



Is your child being tracked in math? It's likely. Make sure your teen's classes count toward graduation *and* college admission. Challenging math classes look good to colleges.



If your teen is taking an honors or AP science, math, or foreign language class, they may want to take the associated SAT subject test now while the information is fresh.

MAY - JUNE

Give finals week support. Make sure your child eats well, gets enough rest, and studies!
 Summer homework: Read, read, read! Encourage your teen to read every day over break.
 Help your teen get a feel for college life by researching a few colleges online.

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