



PS Your plans for the future are important! There are many post-secondary options open to high school graduates. Some serious thinking and planning will make your post-high school transition easier. It is important to organize your thoughts and ideas about your goals and what you need to do to achieve them.

- 4 year Colleges and Universities
- 2 year Colleges/Community Colleges
- Vocational/Technical/Trade/Career Schools

- Air Force
- Army
- Coast Guard
- Marine Corps
- Navy
- Maryland Army National Guard
- DC Air National Guard, 113th Wing

240-857-5449

- Full-time permanent jobs
- Contract services on short-term basis
- Combination of two or more part-time jobs
- Self-employment

START PLANNING NOW!!!

FOUR YEAR “AT A GLANCE” PLANNER

Planning for the Future

Freshman Year or Before

- Think about careers and college majors. What interests you?
- Set goals for yourself. What are your plans after high school?
- Participate in activities (sports, clubs, hobbies) that interest you with an eye toward leadership.
- Keep up your grades and take the most challenging schedule you can (and get A's and B's).
- Plan a challenging sophomore curriculum. Can you take one or more Honor/AP classes?
- Don't waste your summer. Do something that will enhance your future college applications.



Sophomore Year

- Take challenging classes and keep your grades up. Every year is important!
- Try the PSAT test early for practice and to see how you do. Use it to project your SAT scores.
- Take career assessment tests. Are you getting some career ideas?
- Keep up the activities. Add some community service and volunteer work, and/or a paid job.
- If you are planning to attend college, start to develop a preliminary list of target schools that you might consider.
- Plan a challenging junior curriculum. Can you take one or more Honor/AP classes?
- Begin to develop a resume so you can identify where there might be some weaknesses.
- Plan a productive summer that will enhance some aspect of your future college/job applications.



Junior Year

- Take challenging classes and keep your grades up. Stay motivated....the next two years will be BUSY!
- Is your goal to attend college, go into the military, get an apprenticeship, or go directly into the work force?
- What do you need to do to reach your goal? Visit the Career Center to come up with a plan!!!
- Take the PSAT test and see how you do. Use it to project your SAT scores.
- Develop a plan for your standardized testing (ACT and/or SAT) and how you will prepare.
- Keep up the activities. Add some community service and volunteer work, or a paid job.
- Think about what type of college feels right to you. What are their requirements to get in?
- Have you thought about what you might major in? This can help you select colleges.
- Plan some college visits, at least to nearby ones. Do additional research on the internet.
- Refine your list of target schools and be sure they span the range of “sure” to “reach”.
- Discuss with your parents whether there will be financial considerations and aid required.
- Organize a folder of any awards, honors, articles, experiences, etc. that you have had or received.
- Refine your resume and think about bolstering weak areas. Keep your activities going!
- What SATs, ACTs, and/or AP tests are appropriate for this year and when?
- College Board (SAT) and ACT websites recommend juniors take their first SAT and/or ACT no later than the end of their junior year.
- Plan a productive summer that will enhance some aspect of your future applications.
- If you plan on enlisting in the military, prepare for and take the ASVAB test.



Senior Year

- Take challenging classes and keep your grades up. You can't afford to get Senioritis!
- Finalize your list of colleges and be sure you are in their database. If you haven't visited the school, try and schedule a tour.
- Demonstrate interest. Attend open houses, request information, and ask for an interview.
- Take or re-take the ACT and/or SAT. This is your last chance to improve your scores.
- Ask teachers for letters of recommendations as needed. Both colleges and jobs will ask for them.
- Finalize your resume. It will help you with your applications for jobs, colleges, and scholarships.
- Go on to college websites and start working on your college applications. **KEEP TRACK OF APPLICATION DEADLINES!!!**
- Have your transcript sent to those schools that want it.
- COMPLETE the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)! The FAFSA is available on October 1st.
- Work on your college essays and try some drafts. Have others critique them.
- Get your college applications in as early as you can. Consider the early action deadline.
- Prepare for job interviews by looking at common questions and doing mock interviews with others.
- Write thank you notes to anyone who has helped you. (Those who wrote letters, interviewers etc.)
- Have mid-year reports sent to any colleges that require them. Make sure all material is submitted on time.
- Respond to all colleges that admitted you, either accepting or declining their offers.
- Pay attention to housing, meal plan, financial aid and other important information and deadlines.
- Have your final transcript sent to the school you will be attending.
- If waitlisted at your first choice, accept somewhere else but write them an enthusiastic letter.
- If rejected at your first choice, appeal only if you have something compelling and new to send them.
- If you plan on enlisting in the military, prepare for and take the ASVAB test.
- If you plan on doing an apprenticeship, go on the organizations website to see what you need to do to apply.



Visit the Career Center often! Become familiar with ALL the resources available in the Career Center and on the Career Center page of the St. Charles High School website to help you prepare for YOUR FUTURE!!!