



## ZCHS School Counseling Department Freshman Preparation Timeline

### September

- Make sure your schedule includes courses that will fulfill Core 40 (college prep), Technical Honors, or Academic Honors requirements.
- Freshman year represents 1/3 of the cumulative GPA (grade point average) that will be entered on your college applications.
- Get involved in school or community activities.
- Use time management strategies. (e.g., use of an electronic or paper calendar/planner, etc.)
- Check your academic progress by talking to your teachers and checking PowerSchool.
- Complete the *Strengths Explorer Assessment* via Naviance and set personal goals that will further develop your top talents.

### October/November/December

Trouble in a class? Try a different study strategy and speak to the teacher for tips!

- a) Contact the teacher,
- b) Contact your school counselor,
- c) Obtain a tutor list from the ZCHS website.
- Take the PSAT (practice SAT). All 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders will take this test during school hours.
- Complete the *Cluster Finder* and *MI Advantage* in Naviance. Review results and set personal goals that will help you develop your strengths and interests.

### January/February/March

- Scheduling for sophomore year begins: School counselors will meet with freshmen in their classes to begin the course selection process for the following academic year.
- Explore career and post high school options via Naviance. Naviance and the Counseling Department's website has information to assist with career exploration, college/major search, and start exploring financial aid resources.

### April/May

- Schedule Review: Make all schedule changes by the end of May. If receiving a D or lower in a class, consider retaking the course during the summer or the following year.
- Complete the *Game Plan* survey in Naviance Family Connection.

### Summer

- Continue exploring your interests/passions by job shadowing, going to a camp, or working. Check out the list of enrichment programs in Naviance. (College Tab in the College Research section.)