

## FRESHMAN YEAR CHECKLIST

- 1. I have actively chosen challenging courses for my freshman year.**  
*I understand that colleges will want me to do more than the minimum graduation requirements and will want me to challenge myself by enrolling and doing well in tough classes.*
- 2. I understand what courses and credits I will need to graduate.**  
*See graduation requirements in ELCA College Handbook or Course Description Guide.*
- 3. I have done my best on the ACT Aspire & PSAT given in October.**  
*These are practice college entrance tests providing valuable feedback so you can begin to identify academic weaknesses while there is still plenty of time to make improvements.*
- 4. I keep track of my grades in my classes so that I always know where I stand and if I need to work harder to improve my grades in order to reach my goals.**  
*I attempt every assignment, project, and test so I don't earn any zeroes.*
- 5. I understand the colleges to which I apply will view the classes I took during the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the grades I earned in those classes, the GPA I earned each semester, and my cumulative GPA.**  
*Your high school transcript will have all of this information beginning with your 9<sup>th</sup> grade year.*
- 6. I have tried to develop friendly relationships with my teachers.**  
*You will be asking for recommendations later on from some of your teachers.*
- 7. I will begin to pay attention to discovering what coursework and extracurricular activities interest me the most and where I am the strongest.**  
*A list of activities and clubs may be found on the ELCA website. Listen to morning announcements and stay involved. Begin looking for opportunities to begin moving into leadership roles.*
- 8. I have begun to explore my interest in a sport, school club, music or drama, or community volunteer activity.**  
*Colleges would rather see real involvement in one activity instead of a loose connection to several.*
- 9. I have kept a list of activities, honors, awards, volunteer work, etc...**  
*When it comes time to make a resume or complete an application, it will be much easier to refer to your list than your memory.*
- 10. I have started to think about life after high school, including the types of jobs that might interest me.**  
*Of course your interest - likes and dislikes - change over time; however, begin to formulate goals and begin to focus on reaching them. Talk to teachers, college graduates who are working, professionals in the community, etc., about careers you might find interesting.*