

FRESHMEN



MONTH TO MONTH CALENDAR

APRIL

- There are more college guides on the web. Visit different sites for valuable tools and additional resources.
- Apply for working papers. (Remember, you must be 15 to work in New York City.)

MAY

- Prepare for Regents exams.
- Take challenging classes. Most colleges prefer students who have taken 4 years of math and many require it!. Taking Advanced Placement classes and College Now classes can make your college application stand out.
- Find out about and register for a College Now course.
- The College Now program allows students from NYC public high schools to experience college life while still in high school. Students can take college-level classes at their local CUNY campus **for free** or visit www.collegenow.cuny.edu.

JUNE

- Prepare for and take Regents exams.
- Go for tutoring.

SUMMER

- Colleges want to know how you spend your time each summer.
- Find a summer program, internship, or job that you will enjoy – and remember to get working papers if you find a job.
- Read at least 3 books for fun.
- Visit a college.

HOW TO GET GOOD GRADES

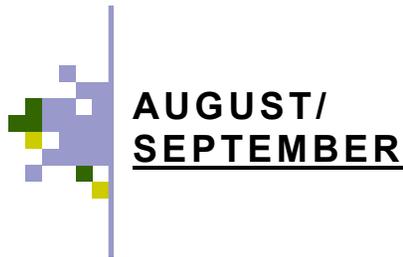
- Believe in yourself.
- To succeed, you must first believe you can.
- Be organized.
- Use three ring notebook for class notes.
- Be successful in class.
- When possible, sit in front of class.
- Be in school, on time, every day.
- Be prepared for each class.
- Always do your homework.
- Take good notes.
- Take notes to help you pay attention.
- Go over your notes as soon as possible.
- Read with a purpose.
- Start studying early.

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AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER

- Get to know your school advisors, teachers, and principal.
- Find out how many credits and courses you need to graduate from high school.
- Meet with your guidance counselor to create a 4-year plan that includes college preparation.
- Get involved in extra-curricular activities. Colleges are interested in the way you spend your extra time.
- Attend your local college fairs.
- Create a professional email.

OCTOBER

- Myth – I don't have the grades to get into college.
- Fact – There is a place for any student who wants to go to college.
- Fact – A college degree is required for more jobs than ever. College graduates earn an average of 80% more than high school graduates. A certificate or degree may be a requirement for the job or career you want.
- Attend Martin Van Buren's college fair.

NOVEMBER

- Begin to involve family in the college choice process.
- Put forth your best academic effort in these next years.
- Use the internet to start your college search. Go to: www.collegeboard.com/quickstart, to begin to develop a range of colleges.
- Explore different types of colleges – private, public, professional and arts.
- Continue to study hard and get good grades.

DECEMBER

- Take a virtual tour of or visit a college campus. New York City has dozens of colleges, all just a subway ride away.
- Research and apply for summer programs and internships. Pay attention to program deadlines so you don't miss out on valuable opportunities.
- Talk with graduates who are home from college.
- Talk to your classmates and friends about your college plans. Friends can be a great support system in your college planning process.

JANUARY

- Prepare for final exams and Regents.
- Develop a preliminary list of colleges (8-12 choices).
- Meet with your guidance counselor to review your grades and determine which Regents exams you should take in June.
- Study hard.

- Do well in school. You should try to earn at least 14 credits in 9th grade.

FEBRUARY

- Myth – I don't have anyone to help me figure out the college planning and application process.
- Fact – Your guidance counselor and college office are great resources and can help you start planning for college as early as 9th grade.
- Get support from your guidance counselor, teachers and principal. They have all been to college and can help you get there. Talk to them about your dream career and ask for their advice about what you need to do to achieve it.
- Continue to study hard.

MARCH

- Start planning. With your guidance counselor's help, map out a 4-year plan for the classes you need to take in high school. Colleges look at **all 4 years** of your high school transcript. Take at least 1 Regents exam by the end of the 9th grade, if possible.
- Engage your mind. Find a fun afterschool activity like chess, drama, band, karate, dance, volunteering, volleyball or a college-access program. During the summer, get involved in a summer program or internship. Ask your guidance counselor for some help.
- Continue to study hard.
- Go for tutoring.