

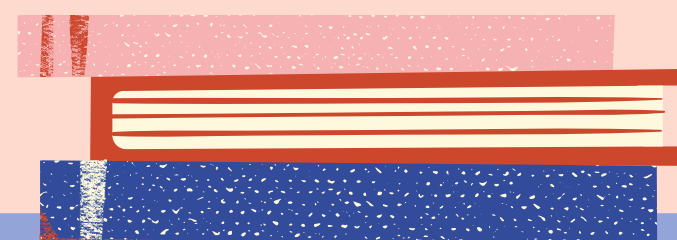
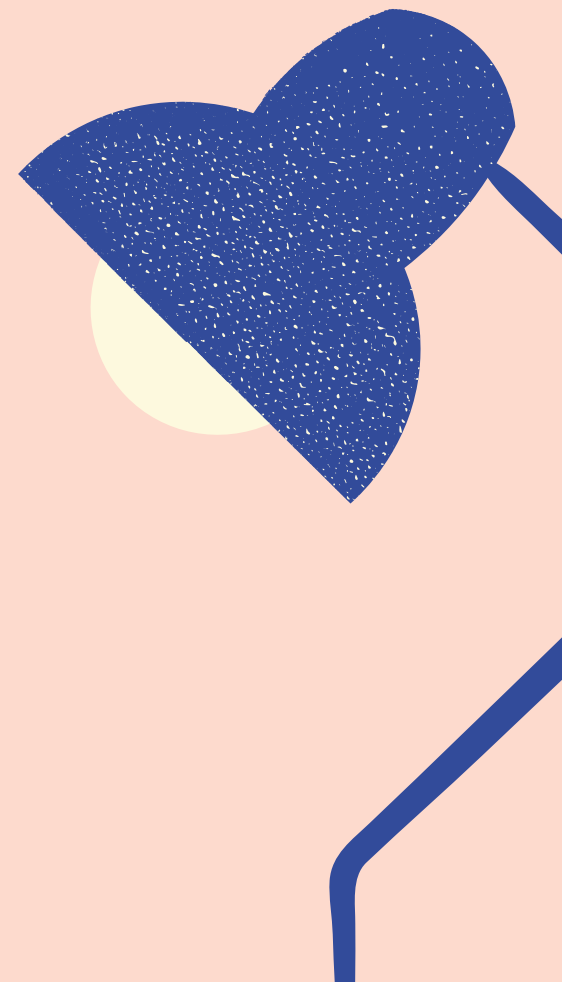
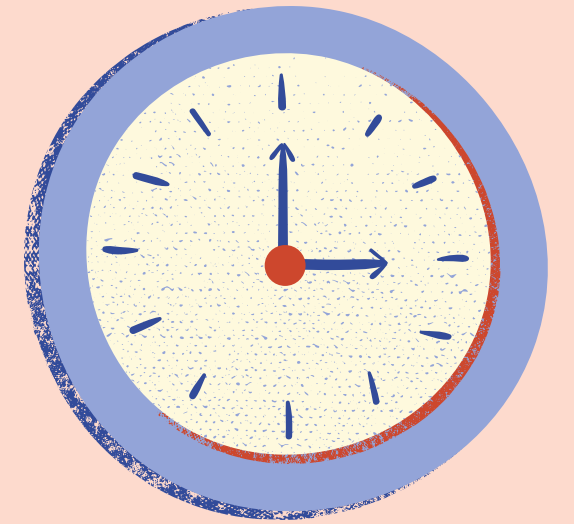
# College 101: A Crash Course on How to Prepare for College

9-11TH GRADE EDITION

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*Ask Yourself*


How early, is too early to plan for college?





It's never too early!

College planning for high school students involves much more than filling out forms, taking standardized tests, and asking teachers for recommendation letters. The process also requires self-reflection and spending time looking at public and private colleges, online learning, and other forms of higher education that you may not have considered previously.





# 9th Grade

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## Focus on Academics!

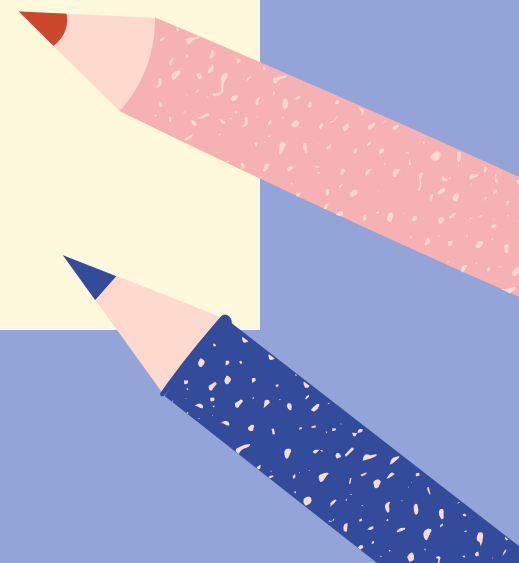
Freshman year counts toward cumulative GPA calculations and impacts class rank two factors that will play a major role in selective college admissions. Trying to recover from a 2.3 GPA as a 9th grader is, from a purely mathematical standpoint, an uphill battle.

## Get Involved!

While you are starting off at a high school it is important to begin to familiarize yourself with extra curricular, while you might not think joining chess or doing debate might not do you any good in the long run if you are interested in other fields, but what matters is leadership experience and filing out that resume!

## Learn who you are!

While in middle school everything was pretty linear, in high school you have the opportunity to begin to self explore a bit about your interests, definitely take the time to niche electives and learn about who you are as a person!













# 10th Grade

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-  Practice the PSAT or any practice ACT.
  -  Begin to explore college majors.
  -  If you are unfamiliar with the college counselor or adviser, get to know them!
  -  Maintain your academic rigor!
  -  Attend any college awareness events or anything targeting underclassmen.
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# 11th Grade

Here you can begin to take more direct action, college application and scholarship season is around the corner!

**If you did not have the opportunity to yet, take any practice ACTs prior to taking the all-school one in the spring.**

**Create a college list with a healthy mix of colleges you are interested in! (up to about 10 colleges)**

**Estimate financial need and get practice with the using that information with the Collegeboard EFC Calculator**

**If you have not done so yet, create a raise.me and put your info in it! Also begin to make accounts needed to apply for college.**

**Actualtly take the ACT or SAT if you can early, being sure to use waivers if you qualify!**

**Make it a point to meet with a college counselor regularly!**

**If there are any college visits, fairs, workshops, or tours in your city, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM!**

**Lastly, do not panic if you don't have a plan 100% made, even if you have an idea you can begin from there!**

*all grades*

**Probably the most important advice or action items that could be done by any highschool student is apply for all the scholarship opportunities you hear about!**



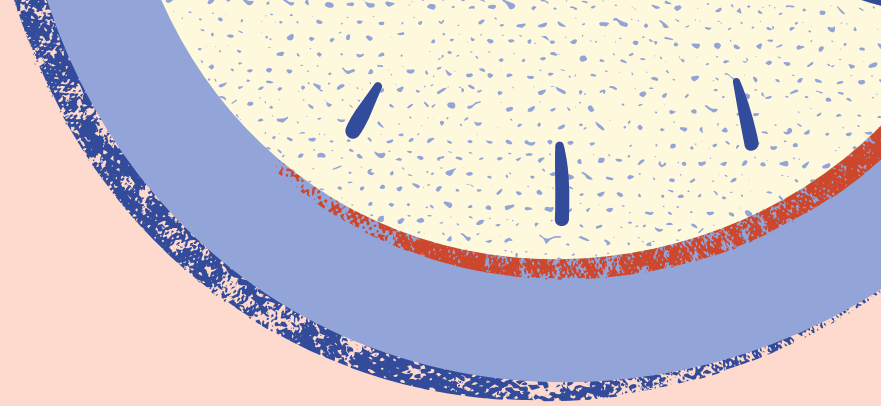
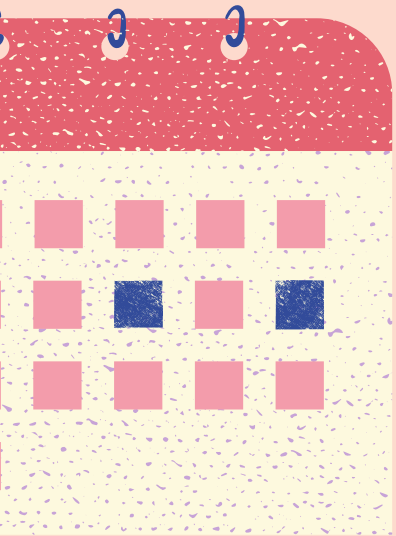
## What can parents do to help their student?

The most important thing parents can do is to listen and help with whatever their student needs help with.

This may be a brand new process for most families so just be sure to ask and talk to a college adviser or counselor.







Thank You!  
Any Questions?





Jonathan Ruiz  
Cervantes



**KANSAS STATE**  
**College Advising Corps**



Questions? Need help finding resources or advising?

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Call me at 913-229-6131

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