8TH GRADE

IT'S OK TO EXPLORE

- Start thinking about possible career interest
- Keep your options open (ex: explore programs that are both Community college and universities)
- Be deliberate with how you spend your time outside of school
- Don't be afraid to seek guidance from your teachers and counselors

PRACTICE GOOD WORK ETHICS

- Don't be afraid to ask questions
- Study, turn in assignments and make the best grades possible
- Choose electives that can help you explore possible career choices
- Do your best on state exams so that you can take advanced classes

BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT WHO YOU HANG OUT WITH

- Try hanging with people who have the same goals as you
- Hang out with peers whose parents have same values
- Don't be afraid to walk away from "friends"

START SAVING

- Talk to guidance counselor about financial opportunities for middle School students (8th graders)
- Find outside programs that conduct college tours
- Start talking to your parents about college
- Talk to your parents, teachers and counselors about how to fund college

TALK TO YOUR COUNSELOR ABOUT

- What high school track courses that can be taken in middle school
- Are there any academic enrichment program available through local Colleges
- Ask you counselor about college dual enrollment criteria
  - Need 3.0
  - Must be enrolled in Advance Language Arts and Algebra I
  - Pass PERT Exam (Reading, Math and Writing)
- Continue taking dual enrollment classes when you get in high school
- Be proactive as you prepare for high school
  - Do your research on Magnet Programs

9th Grade Freshman

DON'T BE AFRAID TO TAKE CHALLENGING CLASSES

- Colleges are looking at your coarse selections
- Your coarse selections gives colleges a snapshot of the goals you set for yourself
- Colleges will be more impressed by respectable grades in challenging coarse than by outstanding grades in easy ones.

KNOW THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

- Ask your counselor for checklist of classes needed for graduation

PRACTICE GOOD WORK ETHICS

- Don't be afraid to ask questions
- Study, turn in assignments and make best grades possible
- Choose electives that can help you explore possible career choices
- Do your best on state exams so that you can take advanced classes

BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT WHO YOU HANG OUT WITH

- Try hanging with people who have the same goals as you

- Hang out with peers whose parents have same values
- Don't be afraid to walk away from "friends"

DUAL ENROLLMENT

- Ask you counselor about college dual enrollment criteria
  - Need 3.0
  - Must be enrolled in Advance Language Arts and Algebra I
  - Pass PERT Exam (Reading, Math and Writing)

CREATE A FILE OF IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND NOTES

- Maintain copies of report card
- Maintain certificates and keep lists of awards and honors
- Keep a running log of school and community activities
- Start a working resume

START THINKING ABOUT COLLEGES YOU WANT TO ATTEND

- Create list of colleges and universities in which you are interested
- Discuss list with counselor and narrow down to a few
- Start calling for information

10th Grade Sophomore

PREPARE FOR STANDARDIZED TESTING

- Enroll in standardized test prep coarse
- Seek assistance from your counselor to determine which test (SATor ACT)
- Don't be intimidated to take PSAT, it will give you a snapshot into the SAT
- Register in April for SAT Subject Tests
- Take SAT in June

CREATE/ADD ON TO FILE OF IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND NOTES

- Maintain copies of report card
- Maintain certificates and keep lists of awards and honors
- Keep a running log of school and community activities
- Start a working resume

BECOME FAMILIAR WITH SCOIR

- Students will watch tutorial video on how to utilize new MDCPS SCOIR (Transition from one phase to another)

- If students have not set up SCOIR, they will be assisted

CONTINUE YOUR COLLEGE/VOCATIONAL SEARCH AND VISITS

- Participate in local college fairs
- Research organizations that expose to college tours
- If not in dual enrollment look into
- Start doing serious research on college search
- Start practicing your essay/statement
- Find vocational program that fits your career interest

11th Grade Junior

PREPARE FOR AND TAKE STANDARDIZED TESTS

- Be proactive in keeping up with PSAT, SAT, ACT, ASVAB & AP Test
- Find out about prep courses for these tests
- Inquire about fee waivers for these exams

MAINTAIN GOOD GRADES AND OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- Explore more challenging classes
- Join various clubs and athletics
- Try assuming leadership roles in your activities
- Start working on a resume/portfolio

CONTINUE YOUR COLLEGE/VOCATIONAL SEARCH AND VISITS

- Participate in local college fairs
- Research organizations that expose to college tours
- If not in dual enrollment look into
- Start doing serious research on college search
- Start practicing your essay/statement
- Find vocational program that fits your career interest

11th GRADE TIMELINE OF ACADEMIC EVENTS

AUGUST:

- Start inquiring about PSAT, ACT, SAT and ASVAB (military exam)
- Be deliberate and intentional with your class choice. A tougher coarse load could pay off with scholarship opportunity
- Be proactive in checking out scholarship board in your counselors Office
- Explore activity to boost college application

SEPTEMBER:

- Be organized
- As you start your research keep a file with research in a file

OCTOBER:

- Take the PSAT
- Sign up for ACT or SAT prep coarse
- Do your top college picks require essays or recommendations? Now is the time to begin planning your essay and choosing who you will ask to do your recommendation letter(s).

NOVEMBER:

- Sign up for the ACT and SAT

DECEMBER

- Investigate the College-Level Examination Program or CLEP, which grants college credit for achievement in exams covering many different college-level subjects

JANUARY

- Start conversation with counselor about senior schedule
- Organize your individual graduation plan

FEBRUARY

- Start looking into summer jobs and internships in your area of interest
- Find program within school or outside entity for college tour

MARCH/APRIL

- Write resume
- Keep studying for AP exams

12th Grade Senior

12TH GRADE TIMELINE OF ACADEMIC EVENTS

AUGUST

- Make sure that you maintain good grades throughout your 12th grade year. The grades that you earn your 12th grade year effect scholarship opportunities and
  entry into college. Do not slack off your last year of high school!

SEPTEMBER

- Attend a college fair

OCTOBER

- Start applying for admission at the colleges that you have selected
- Start asking for references from teachers and school counselors
- Begin writing your college entrance essay

NOVEMBER

- Apply for scholarships

DECEMBER

- Start gathering parents taxes and financial Documents
- Keep track of deadlines and make sure to send any missing paperwork to the colleges

JANUARY

- Continue looking for scholarship opportunities

FEBRUARY

- Complete FASFA

MARCH

- Visit colleges that you have applied to in order to make your final decision
- Make decision on school choices and send back acceptance letter and housing selection

APRIL

- Compare financial aid package from different schools

MAY

- Follow-up on scholarships applied for
- Ensure senior checklist is complete
- Make sure you have requested final transcript for college chosen

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

MILITARY

- Army
    - Must be U.S. Citizen
    - Be between 17-34 years of age
    - Have a high school diploma
    - Have no more than 2 dependents
    - Take and pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)j test.
    - Pass a military Entrance Processing Station medical exam
- Navy
    - Must be U.S. citizen; or Legal Permanent (Enlist)
    - Be between the ages of 17-39 to enlist or be 19-42 got become an Officer*
    - Have a high school diploma or GED equivalent (Enlisted) or have A four-year degree from an accredited university (Officer)
    - Have a qualifying score on the Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test (Enlisted) or the Officer Aptitude (OAR) and Aviation Selection Test Battery (ASTB) (Officer)
    - Pass the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) medical Exam
    - Meet the physical, metal and moral standard of the Navy

    *If you are not yet 18, you need parental consent to join

- Air Force

  - Must be U.S. citizen
  - Be between 17-39
  - Have a high school diploma, GED with at least 15 college Credits or GED
  - Aptitude testing Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test
  - Physical and Mental Screening

- Marines

  - Must be U.S. citizen
  - Be between 17-29
  - Have a high school diploma
  - Meet exacting physical, mental and moral standards
  - Take and pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test
  - Pass a Military Entrance Procession Station Medical exam

- Coast Guard

  - Must be U.S. citizen
  - Be between 17-31 (up to age 32 if qualified for attending Guaranteed 'A' school) for Active Duty
  - Have a high school diploma
  - Have no more than three dependents

VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Top 20 Vocational Schools in Miami-Dade County

- Fvi School of Nursing-Miami
- Miami Technical Institute
- Universal Career School
- PiBerry Institute
- Florida Career College Miami
- Genesis Vocational Institute
- South Florida Technical Training
- Homestead Firearms Academy
- Dade Institute of Technology
- Howard D McMillian Middle School
- Rock Stars of IT
- Wyncode Academy
- Sun Training Center
- Florida Career College Pembroke Pines
- More Tech Institute
- Florida Education Institute
- Fvi School of Nursing-Miramar
- The Academy of Florida-Doral Campus
- Miami Barber Institute
- Florida Career College Hialeah

STRAIGHT INTO WORK FORCE.

- Jobs/Careers
  - Police Officer
  - Public Service Aide
  - Fire Fighter
  - Post Office
  - Correction Officer (county, state and federal)
  - Transportation Security Administration
  - Waste Management
  - Florida Power and Lights
  - Hospital Orderly

10 FREE SAT PREP RESOURCES

- **Collegeboard.org**
- **Khan Academy**
- **Test Prep Review**
- **The Princeton Review**
- **McGraw-Hill**
- **Kaplan**
- **Testpreppractice.net**
- **Varsity Tutors**
- **Spark Notes SAT Prep**
- **PowerScore.com**

15 Best Scholarship Websites

- **CollegeNet.com**
- **Scholarships.com**
- **Niche.com**
- **Fastweb.com**
- **Salliemae.com**
- **Finaid.org**
- **The College Board**
- **Cappex.com**
- **MoolahSpot.com**
- **Scholarshipmonkey.com**
- **Chegg.com**
- **Careeronestop.org**
- **Unigo.com**
- **Petersons.com**
- **Additional resources (your specific college's website, your high school, Community or town website, federal agency website and from state agency)**