

COLLEGE/CAREER PLANNING GUIDE

College Career Center Website
<http://www.fcps.edu/McLeanHS>

Fairfax County Public Schools
www.fcps.edu/ss/CareerConnections

College Board
<http://www.collegeboard.com>

Freshman Year:

- Talk with your parents, teachers and friends about your likes and dislikes and your personal characteristics
- Go to the resources listed above learn about yourself and occupations as well as colleges and majors
- Discuss careers and course planning when you meet with your counselor in the fall
- Fill out your Game Plan in Family Connection
- Review requirements for certain careers/colleges/career & technical colleges or the military
- Visit the College Career Center located in Guidance for summer and job opportunities and check out Career Connections through Family Connection and the College Career Center website
- Become involved in school and community organizations
- Discuss job information with people who are currently in a field which is of interest to you
- Talk with college students who are currently taking courses in a field which is of interest to you
- Consider career goals or interests in selecting classes in the spring
- **Start a resume in Family Connection of all activities, honors and awards, grades 9-end of high school. Nothing is too insignificant.**

Sophomore Year:

- Review your Game Plan in Family Connection and update if necessary. Continue activities begun in your freshman year or find ones to do over the next three years
- Explore career and education options using resources mentioned above and visit the MHS College Career Center. Research summer and job opportunities.
- Ask your counselor to review school records and test data
- Take the PSAT and/or certain SAT Subject Tests if appropriate
- Go to the websites listed above to learn about yourself and occupations as well as colleges and majors
- Consider career goals/interests in selecting classes in the spring
- **Add to your resume (see Freshman Year)**

Junior Year:

- If you are interested, acquire part-time volunteer or job experience related to career plans or area of interest
- Review your Game Plan in Family Connection and update if necessary
- Take the PSAT in the fall and college entrance exams (ACT, SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject, TOEFL) in the spring
- Identify appropriate college majors as they relate to possible career goals
- Consider career goals/interests as you select classes in the spring
- Attend college information programs in the College Career Center in the fall; college fairs and programs presented by specific colleges and organizations throughout the year
- Go to the websites listed above to explore your career path and search for majors
- Visit the College Career Center for summer and job opportunities as well as the College Career Center and FCPS Career Connections websites
- **Add to your resume (see Freshman Year)**
- Start researching scholarship opportunities at Family Connection and the College Career Center website. Register for scholarships at www.fastweb.com

Senior Year:

- Complete your resume in Family Connection and produce a document in resume format
- Meet with your counselor to complete college application process
- Attend college information programs in the College Career Center and in the area; visit colleges
- Take necessary entrance exams: ACT, SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject, TOEFL
- Identify career/college choices; use websites noted above
- Complete forms for computerized needs analysis for financial aid and scholarships
- **KEEP GRADES UP** – admission is contingent upon successful completion of your senior year
- Apply for employment, college (2 or 4 yr.), career/technical college; join the military, start a business, take a year off