

Parent Action Plan: 9th Grade

The beginning of high school is an exciting time. Your scholar may be adjusting to a new school, making new friends and becoming more independent. But your scholar still needs your help and involvement. Here are some things you can do together to succeed this year.

Summer Before High School

- Ask your scholar what they learned at Crossroads enrichment classes each week. Follow up at home helps students consolidate the new material they learn in class.
- Visit a college campus together. It's a great way to get your child excited about college. Learn more about how you and your child can [prepare for a campus visit](#).
- Get the facts about what college costs. You may be surprised at how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading [Understanding College Costs](#).
- Show your child how to explore career ideas. He or she can make a list of interests, talents and favorite activities and start matching them with occupations. Learn more about how your child can [complete a career worksheet](#).
- Come up with fun reading ideas. Look for magazines or newspapers your child may like and talk about the books you loved reading when you were your child's age. If your family makes reading enjoyable, it can become a daily habit.

Fall

- Make sure your scholar meets with the school counselor AND their Crossroads Counselor. Your child should schedule a meeting to talk about college and career options and to choose the most-appropriate classes. Learn more about [the high school counselor's role](#) and [how Crossroads counselors are also there to support you](#). (login: 'scholar' pass: 'hard2forget')
- Make sure your scholar meets with their Crossroads Counselor to set SMART Goals. Discuss his or her for the school year. Working toward specific goals helps your child stay motivated and focused.
- Make a plan to check in regularly about schoolwork. If you keep up with your child's tests, papers and homework assignments, you can celebrate successes and head off problems as a team. Get [homework tips for your child](#).
- Talk about extracurricular activities. Getting involved in clubs and other groups is a great way for your child to identify interests and feel more engaged in school. Read more about [the benefits of extracurriculars](#).

Winter

- Start thinking about financial aid. It's not too early to look into types of aid that could help you cover college costs. Start by reading [7 Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid](#). Also view [StudentAid.gov/parent](https://studentaid.gov/parent) for more information.
- Consider opening college savings accounts and make sure you are aware of provisions.
- Discuss next year's classes. Make sure your child is challenging him or herself — and taking the courses college admission officers expect to see. Learn more about the [high school classes that colleges look for](#). Have scholars talk to his or her school counselor or teachers about advanced courses. Find out what courses are available and if scholars are eligible.

Spring

- Help your child start a college list. Visit [College Search Step-by-Step](#) together to get tips on starting a college search and figuring out what matters most to your child when choosing a college.
- See how much you need to save for college. Use the [College Savings Calculator](#) to get an idea of where you are compared with your savings goal.
- Estimate your financial aid using [FAFSA4caster](#) and be sure to save for college.
- Help your scholar make summer plans. Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Find out ways your child can [stay motivated this summer](#).
- Begin a college resume. Make a list of awards, honors, extracurricular activities, and paid and volunteer work. Update it throughout high school.
- Complete your High Ropes, St. Vincent Week, and Career Academies forms. These programs keep scholars busy over the summer at Crossroads. Review and discuss the CrossTalk cards after each program to help get the conversation going with your scholar.