

Parent Action Plan: 10th Grade

As your scholar settles into the high school experience, it's a great time for him or her to take on new challenges. It's also not too early to explore colleges, college majors and career goals. Use the list below to help make 10th grade count.

Summer

- Complete your High Ropes, St. Vincent Week, and Career Academies forms. These programs keep scholars busy over the summer at Crossroads. Look for the #CrossTalk cards after each program to help get the conversation going with your scholar.
- **Attend your annual commitment meeting** with your scholar and Crossroads Counselor. Commitment meetings help scholars stay on track and share goals and aspirations with the people who can help them be accountable to their success.
- Visit a college campus together, and compare it to the St. Vincent experience. It's a great way to get your sophomore excited about college and thinking about how colleges can differ from one another. 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 by how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading [Understanding College Costs](#).
- Help your sophomore explore career ideas. He or she can make a list of interests, talents and favorite activities and start matching them with occupations. Learn how to use exercises like these to [make a career worksheet](#). Discuss these ideas with your scholar especially after each Career Academy program.
- 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 in high school. 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 sophomore should schedule a meeting to talk about college and career options and to make sure he or she is taking 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').
- Encourage your scholar to create SMART Goals with their Crossroads Counselor. Working toward specific goals helps your scholar stay motivated and focused.
- Make a plan to check in regularly about schoolwork. If you keep up with your scholar's tests, papers and homework assignments, you can celebrate successes and head off problems as a team. Get [homework tips](#) for your sophomore.
- 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](#).

This resource adapted from documents in College Board's BigFuture™ initiative. More resources here:
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-parents>

- Help your sophomore get ready to take the PSAT/NMSQT, if their school offers it to sophomores. Taking the test this fall can help your child prepare for the SAT and get on track for college. Sophomores can also use their score reports to figure out which academic areas they need to work on. Learn more about the [PSAT/NMSQT](#).

Winter

- If your child was not offered the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall, they may be offered the PSAT 10 in February or March. They are the same test, just offered at different times of the year.
- Review PSAT 10 or PSAT/NMSQT results together. Log in to the [student score reporting portal](#) with your child to learn what she or he is doing well and which skills your child should work on to get ready for college and career. It will also connect your child to [free, personalized SAT study tools](#); AP courses; and college and career planning resources.
- Start thinking about ways to pay for college. Most families get help paying for college costs. Read [7 Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid](#) to learn more, and talk with other parents at #CrossTalk sessions to share ideas around preparing for college costs.
- Encourage your sophomore to consider taking SAT Subject Tests. Many colleges require or recommend taking these tests to get a sense of your child's skills in a certain academic area. In general, it's best to take a Subject Test right after taking the relevant course. Learn more about [SAT Subject Tests](#).
- Discuss next year's classes. Make sure your scholar will be 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](#).

Spring

- Meet with your scholar and Crossroads Counselor to discuss summer SPICE programs that align with your scholar's career interests. Support your scholar in applying to their top programs.
- Make a college wish list together. Talk with your sophomore about qualities he or she may want in a college in terms of location, size, majors offered and so on. Check out [How to Find a College That Fits You](#) to learn more about deciding on college must-haves.
- See how much you need to save for college. Use the [College Savings Calculator](#) to get an idea of where you are in terms of your savings goal.
- Help your scholar make additional summer plans. Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Work, volunteer or take a summer course. Find out ways your high schooler can [stay motivated this summer](#).
- Encourage your scholar to apply to LEAD and/or peer mentoring if you think they could benefit from and contribute to scholar leadership programming.

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