

# 10th Grade Checklist

Sophomore year, you will want to stay on track with your high school classes and activities and begin to narrow down the plan for your future.

## FALL

### **Take the PSAT**

Taking the PSAT qualifies you for the National Merit Scholarship Program, which means you could earn money for college. In addition, it is a good way to practice for the ACT and/or SAT. ACPS offers the PSAT to all 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **Stay on track with your courses**

Work with your school counselor to make sure you are enrolled in the courses you need to prepare you for college or a career.

### **Begin learning about the college admissions process**

Get familiar with general college entrance requirements. The NHS Guidance Office, the library, college websites, and advice articles are all good sources of information.

### **Continue exploring potential careers**

Explore your college options in more detail — research possible careers to learn about the tasks, education, and training necessary for each occupation.

## WINTER

### **Take on new roles**

Stay involved with your extracurricular activities and work toward leadership positions in the activities you like best. Become involved in community service and other volunteer activities. Build your postsecondary resume.

### **Practice your writing**

You will need good writing skills no matter what path you pursue, so work on those skills now to be prepared. Find a teacher or another adult who can advise and encourage you to write well.

### **Get advice from your counselor**

Meet with your NHS counselor to make sure you are staying on track. You can also discuss your PSAT scores and ask about postsecondary enrollment options and advanced academics courses.

- Mrs. Natasha Cheggeh is the Guidance Counselor for students with the last name beginning with A – L (email: [cheggehnd@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:cheggehnd@gm.sbac.edu))
- Mrs. Jessica Ross is the Guidance Counselor for students with the last name beginning with M – Z (email: [rossjs@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:rossjs@gm.sbac.edu))

### **Keep your grades up**

It is so important to remain focused on doing well in your classes. Remember that your grades affect your GPA and class rank — two factors that colleges consider in the admissions process.

### **Start your college search**

Use our college search tools to decide which factors are important to you and see a list of colleges that match your criteria. Attend college fairs and read the material you get from all types of schools — you may see something you like.

### **Contact colleges that interest you**

Contact schools and ask for more information about their academic requirements and any programs or activities that you are interested in. It is especially important to start this process now if you think you want to attend a military academy.

### **Get a summer job**

Finding steady summer work will look good to prospective colleges and employers. Saving the money you earn for college will also help you get a head start on financial planning for postsecondary goals.

### **Read! Read! Read!**

Developing your reading skills will help prepare you for tests and make you a well-rounded individual. Read as many books as you can, including articles on current events.

Visit the NHS Student Information Center for more information:

