

Things Freshmen Should Be Doing NOW to Prepare for College and Career after high school graduation

1. Set the standard NOW for your high school career. Develop good practices for learning and focus on achieving your best academic performance as well as involvement in school. Consider it your job! The decisions you make now will impact your future. Make decisions for which your future self will thank you. Your grades, attendance and participation and the kind of person you are and want to become all matter NOW and will continue to matter moving forward.
2. Advocate for yourself and seek assistance to support your own success in school and beyond. Ask teachers for help when you need it, utilize after-school tutoring services on and off campus, and get to know and work with your counselor to ensure your success.
3. Get involved through activities, athletics and academics on campus. Make the most of your KWHS experience and develop your Conch Pride! Now is the time to explore and discover your strengths and passions that will support your success in high school and ultimately shape what you will do after high school. Your path is unique to you and may not be the same as your peers' – and that's OK!
4. Explore potential careers and degree programs to begin to shape your personal goals and objectives. The KWHS Guidance Department is here to help you in the KWHS Career Center to begin this process. Get to know your teachers and counselor and work with them to help you discover what you may want to do after high school.
4. Take the PSAT seriously. The PSAT is an important tool that forecasts your performance on the SAT and ACT but also assesses for potential for AP and DE courses that will prepare you for college as well as your eligibility for some scholarships and recognitions.
5. Visit colleges, universities and vocational schools and/or job shadow in your area of career interest. It's not too early to start! Arrange to sit in on college or vocational classes. Go to work with a parent, a family member, or another personal connection. It is as important to know what you do not like as it is to know what you do like.
7. Participate in community service and other community, extracurricular, experiential learning and enrichment activities as well as special or summer programs and internships to broaden your knowledge and expand your personal network. Ask teachers and counselors for their advice. Start accruing community service hours and submit documentation forms to the CAPS Office.
8. Start to develop an electronic personal inventory or list of your goals, accomplishments, experiences, awards, activities, etc., a.k.a., a resume or a brag sheet.
9. Understand the role of the College and Career Advisor. KWHS's College and Career Advisor assists all students with the college and career planning process. You may not have frequent interactions with her now, but your work with her will increase through your Junior and into your Senior years.
10. It's not too early to familiarize yourself with the College and Career Planning webpage to know what to expect in the future! <http://collegeandcareerplanning.kwh.keysschools.schoolfusion.us/> (KWHS Homepage > Academics > College and Career Planning)

And you should already know that

GRADES

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are ALWAYS important! :)