

9th Grade: Building the Foundation

Fall (September–November):

- **Transition to High School:** Adjust to new routines, establish good study habits, and set academic goals.
- **Course Selection:** Focus on core academic subjects and consider honors or advanced courses if appropriate. Students are not permitted to move into higher-level courses once school has started. The deadline to submit the request is July 1st; if prerequisites are not met a waiver form is required (see scheduling resources).
- **Extracurricular Involvement:** Join clubs, sports, or other activities to explore interests and develop skills.
- **Meet Your Counselor:** Counselors will meet with 9th-grade classes in each house. Students will also meet with their counselor during individual scheduling sessions in March.

Winter (December–February):

- **Counselor Connection:** Parent/Guardian Phone Conferences with Counselor during midterms.
- **Career Exploration:** Review academic and extracurricular interests to explore career options.
- **Grade Check-In:** Evaluate performance in classes and seek help in areas of struggle.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Participate in community service to develop leadership and commitment.

Spring (March–May):

- **Planning Ahead:** Create a tentative four-year high school course plan to meet graduation and college requirements (see scheduling handout under scheduling; keep in mind course offerings may change yearly to meet the needs of the student body and therefore, this is a tentative plan.)
- **Test Prep:** Begin familiarizing yourself with standardized tests NJSLA.
- **Summer Planning:** Research summer enrichment programs or part-time work that aligns with your interests.

"College Planning Timeline for 9th and 10th Grade." *OpenAI's ChatGPT*, chat.openai.com, Accessed [Dec. 26, 2024].

The College Board. "BigFuture: College Planning for 9th and 10th Graders." *College Board*, secure-media.collegeboard.org. Accessed [Dec. 26, 2024].