

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Timeline

## Fall/Winter/Spring

### ***Make school count: What you can do to prepare for high school and beyond***

This year is about preparing for high school, but it is also good to keep the big picture— college— in mind. If you can take classes you will need to take in high school anyway, take them! Take Algebra and/or a foreign language this year if possible. Develop skills such as word processing and online research which you will use in high school, college, and beyond. Try a new activity! Learn to play an instrument or play a sport. Join clubs or social groups. Get involved in school and your community. Explore community service and volunteer opportunities.

### ***Study hard!***

Strive for high grades and pay attention in your classes. Make sure you use good study habits and keep your grades up. Push yourself to stay focused in/on school. Staying organized and keeping up with your assignments will help you succeed. Use a planner!

### ***Ask for help!***

Counselors, teachers, parents and friends are all good sources of information. Ask them any questions you have about college, in addition to your own research.

### ***Research high school options and courses offered at the schools in your area***

Think about which high school you will attend next year. Is there more than one option? Schedule a shadow day to help you decide which high school you will attend. Does the high school offer Honors, AP, and/or International Baccalaureate classes? Some schools now have particular specialties, such as career and technical education coding, aviation/aerospace education, visual arts, performing arts, fashion design, medical and health studies, and more! Make a list of pros and cons for each school. What is your major goal for after high school? Which school might help make that path the easiest? Think about a challenging course to take freshman year. Learn about the types of courses colleges expect students to take in high school. Work with a counselor or advisor to map out high school courses that will meet college admissions requirements in language arts, math, science, world languages, social science and visual or performing arts.

### ***Start saving for college***

It may seem early, but you might want to consider opening a college savings account. Talk to your family about saving for college. It is never too early to save! Begin searching for scholarships and find some that interest you! Some scholarships are only for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students! If you find some that you could will be eligible for once you are in high school, take note of them. Many of the scholarships you find now will still be offered once you are old enough. Take note of scholarship requirements and keep those in mind!

## Summer

### ***Make summer count***

Do what you can to stay busy over the summer! Volunteer and go to summer camps. Research places to volunteer — good places to start are at hospitals, non-profit organizations, homeless shelters, animal shelters, sanctuaries, and zoos, museums, libraries.

### ***Read, read, read.***

Newspapers, books and magazines. Explore your public library. Consider keeping a reading response journal full of quotes, questions, and ideas. READ during the summer, review classroom materials and plan for the upcoming school year!

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