

# Preparing for College

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## Younger Children – Start Early

1. Share
  - Positive conversations
  - Your college experience, relatives, friends
2. Exposure
  - Visit college campuses – it's FREE 😊
  - Work it into family vacations
  - Attend college athletic events, plays, concerts etc.
  - Consider summer camps at a college campus (athletic/academic)
3. Talk, Talk and Talk Some More
  - Discuss different careers – job shadow
  - Salaries
  - What are your interests
4. The Finances!
  - Savings Accounts and College Accounts (parent and child)
  - Make deposits routinely
  - METS
5. Encourage
  - Encourage academics
  - Encourage reading
  - Encourage college

## Older Children – Focus and Personal Growth

1. Academics
  - Encourage academically rigorous classes
  - Standardized Testing – take it seriously
  - TIP: Keep a list of every book that you read: Some college applications will ask you for a list of books that you've read in the last 12 months, while others ask you to write about characters in literature that intrigued you or made you think.
2. Interests
  - Begin to narrow down interests
  - What are you good at?
  - Focused college visits
  - Meet with school counselor

3. Be Involved

Outside activities

Volunteer work

Athletics

Church/Youth Group

National Honor Society

Community Service – Track your hours!!!

**Tip:** Quality Not Quantity: Choose two or three clubs or activities and put in time and effort. Ninth grade is a great chance to try out many different clubs, but once you're in tenth grade, don't fall into the trap of trying to attend every club under the sun.

4. The Finances!

Continued Savings – Parent and Child

**Junior Year - Focus**

1. What schools fit?

ACT Scores

GPA

Find that appropriate school for your skill level and interest

List them, examine them (online, visits), talk to others who attend, etc.

**Fall of Senior Year – Go for the Goal**

1. Apply and Apply Early

Letters of recommendation

College Essays – work with High School English Department **TIP:** start making a list of qualities about yourself that you would like to show colleges and then think of examples and experiences that would back up these qualities.

Transcripts – work with High School Guidance Department

2. The Finances!

Part-time work/Summer job – College applications have an entire section asking you about your employment during high school. Part time employment shows colleges responsibility.

FAFSA

Scholarships – Need Based, Local, Academic/Merit, College Specific and Program Specific

College Night at TKHS

**College Life – Survival☺**

1. The Finances!

Part-time jobs

Loans/Grants

Work studies

2. Living on Campus vs. Living at Home

Dorm room

Roommate(s)

Eating

Sleeping

Social Life