



# HOW PLANNING AHEAD CAN HELP YOU

Use this checklist to help you investigate important decisions about your schedule for next year (and high school). Planning ahead will allow you to make the most out of your classes, and it means you are assuming responsibility for your own future—and that's a good thing!

## CAREER PLANNING

Task	Why I should do this now	What I did and when I did it
Take an interest inventory at school or online.	Find out about your interests, skills and values. This will help you decide on courses you might like to take.	
Take a career inventory that is offered at school.	This will guide you toward careers that might possibly interest you. Knowing this will help you select courses that support these careers.	
Investigate at least 10 careers. Search career profiles and take notes about the careers that interest you.	This will help you see what the job entails, potential salary, education required, and forecast for job openings in the future (like 8-10 years from now).	
Talk to people you know who are in the careers that interest you. Keep their advice in mind as you research jobs.	This will give you a practical idea of what the job is like and how difficult the preparation is for this career.	

## COLLEGE PLANNING

Research colleges you are interested in learning more about.	Find out whether they offer a major for a career that you might like. Find out about entrance requirements.	
Research all postsecondary options and their costs.	Some careers require different educational plans. Know what is available and how much these cost.	

## MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL COURSE PLANNING

Find out what courses are required in 8 <sup>th</sup> grade at your school.	Make sure you know what you are required to take. Usually this is decided for you.	
Ask which courses offer high school credit in 8 <sup>th</sup> grade.	Ask your counselor for a list so you can see which ones will help you most.	
Learn about the electives that are offered in middle school.	Taking electives that support your interests is a smart way to choose.	
Register for courses that give you the most flexibility in high school.	Taking at least one course for high school credit can open your schedule for other courses.	
Begin your high school graduation plan. Your counselor will help you.	It's never too early to plan ahead. That way you won't take courses out of order.	

### OWN IT!

How is planning ahead for high school like reaching the top levels in a video game?