

## **Freshman Checklist**

### **August (prior to the start of high school)**

- Attend orientation with one parent/guardian and submit all registration forms online.

### **All year**

- Read, read, read!
- Develop strong academic, language, mathematics and critical thinking skills by taking courses that challenge you.
- Grades matter every year-- even in freshman year. Review grades in PowerSchool and Canvas.
- Develop good study habits - find a quiet place where you can regularly go to focus on and complete your homework. Always bring needed materials to class.
- Know your learning styles and utilize them in your study habits.
- Take advantage of every opportunity to participate in enrichment and/or leadership activities.
- Volunteer for community service. Visit the Counseling Career Center for more information.
- Create and update a resume or portfolio/binder of high school experience (i.e. awards, leadership, activities, etc.).

### **September & October**

- Get to know your teachers.
- Develop and maintain good study habits. This is important throughout high school. Keep in mind that your grades from freshman year impact your overall high school g.p.a.
- Choose your extracurricular activities for the school year. Try leadership roles or new experiences. Don't spread yourself too thin...pick clubs, organizations, and/or sports you are interested in and are able to commit to the time involvement.
- Review your grades, if you are not passing your courses, visit with your teacher for ideas to improve your grades. Ask for assistance early and often, if needed. Lists of academic resources are available in the Counseling and Career Center or make an appointment with your school counselor to discuss additional options.
- Consider participating in the counseling transition group (i.e. Club 9).
- Explore who you are as a person and set personal goals.

### **November & December**

- Keep up with your assigned homework. Retake assessments.
- Review your report card; visit with teachers for ideas to improve your grades. See your counselor for additional strategies.
- Participate in Career Day (when available – spring of even year).
- Complete an interest profiler and explore potential career options. Think about several career possibilities and learn how much education is required for each job. Talk with parents/guardians, teachers, your school counselor and the FNH career advisor about post-secondary and career possibilities.
- If taking AP Human Geography, sign up to take the May AP test.

### **January & February**

- Review your grades after first semester, are they what you wanted to earn? If not, assess your study habits and visit with your school counselor for help in improving them.
- When registering for your sophomore classes choose academically challenging courses. Be sure all courses are appropriate for your ability and study habits. Choose classes that meet graduation requirements and post-secondary admission requirements.
- Visit with your parents/guardians about your class selections for your sophomore year.
- Register for elective classes that allow you to explore your career interests.
- Consult with your school counselor during the registration process to update your plan of study and to discuss career and post-secondary goals.

### **March & April**

- Review your grades and visit with your teacher for ideas to improve your grades.
- Find out about the summer activities, jobs, or volunteer opportunities that will expand your experience and skills.

### **May**

- Register for summer school if you are behind on credits or need to retake a core course. See your school counselor for assistance.
- Consider getting a summer job to explore your career interests.
- If you need help to improve your “Job Seeking & Keeping Skills” visit the Career Center.
- Start learning about post-secondary options through school visits, websites and information in the Counseling and Career Center.
- Consider a college savings account. Consider what you and your family can contribute and the additional support you will need through financial aid and scholarships. Financial need should not deter you from applying to post-secondary institutions.