

JUNIORS

TERMINOLOGY

GPA: grade point average; calculated using the grades you make in your classes; determines rank and can affect college acceptance

RANK: your numerical placement amongst students in your graduating class

PSAT: Preliminary SAT; a test administered by the College Board involving both math and English that prepares you for the SAT and can qualify you as a national merit scholar

SAT: Scholastic Aptitude Test; college entrance exam for some colleges and universities; multiple-choice exam consisting of math and English questions

ACT: American College Test; college entrance exam for some colleges and universities; multiple-choice exam consisting of math, reading, scientific reasoning and English questions

DUAL CREDIT: courses that earn you both high school and college credit

CREDIT: you earn credits for graduation by passing courses; each semester of a passed course is worth 0.5 credits

CBE: credit by exam; you can earn credit for particular courses by taking an exam and scoring a certain percentage

WEIGHT: the way a grade for a course is factored into your GPA; talk to your counselor for more information about which classes are weighted higher

How to Thrive

- Try to get in some volunteering! Find something that speaks to you. Plus it looks good on that resume.
- Prepare for the PSAT! It could mean big scholarships and it is great practice for the SAT.
- Pay attention to the skills you are learning, not just the material. Upper level classes teach many skills to be used later in life.
- Update resume.
- Keep a calendar or planner to help you stay organized as school and life gets busier.
- Be kind to your teachers and classmates. They are your greatest resource while in high school.

Things to Think About

- Your options after high school are 2 year college, 4 year college, military, or work-force possibly with required training.
- GPA matters! Get good grades when you can.
- Ask your counselor for an aptitude or career test.
- Get into classes that will help you in college such as AP or Dual Credit.
- Go visit a college!

Know your Graduation Requirements

- The state of Texas requires the completion of a minimum of 22 credits and at least 1 endorsement. Plan to complete at least 26 credits if you want to go to college.
- Distinguished Level of Achievement is required for you to be eligible for the top 10% automatic admission rule for public Texas Universities.
- You can graduate with the Distinguished Level of Achievement if you have met requirements for 4 maths, 4 sciences, and 1 endorsement.