

# SOPHOMORES

## 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

- Join a club, sport, or extracurricular activity!
- Start a 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

- Take the PSAT this year! Your scores as a sophomore do not qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship program, but it is good practice.
- GPA matters! Get good grades when you can.
- It is never too early to start thinking about college, a career, or the military.
- Ask your counselor for an aptitude or career test.
- Think about visiting 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.