

THINK ABOUT IT!!! You have to go to high school anyway, so you might as well . . .MAKE IT COUNT!

And . . . your high school years may be the most exciting and important ones you'll spend in school!

For the first time you'll have **lots of choices** to make about what you study. It's important to know that the choices you make for 9th grade--as well as 10th, 11th and 12th--will affect the choices you'll have for the rest of your life.

No matter what you dream of doing with your life, preparing yourself for more education beyond high school is your wisest plan right now. Post-high school education can provide valuable experiences that contribute to a better quality of life for you. Whether or not you go on to a college or university or career or technical school, the information and skills you learn in your high school classes will always be useful in the world of work.

Remember! Everyone, in every kind of job, needs to be able to write and speak clearly, listen carefully, understand what is written and spoken, and use math effectively.

Keep your options open!!!!

Right now you may not know what you want to do with your future - - or exactly how to get ready for it.

That's okay! You have plenty of time to figure out what interests you, what you're good at, and how those things add up to a career. The most important thing to do right now is make sure you keep your options open.

Don't let a "MAYBE" keep you from preparing for future option!

Some students shut themselves out of wonderful opportunities because of maybes:

***Maybe** future education is too expensive.

***Maybe** future study is too hard.

***Maybe** I won't fit in.

***Maybe** my family has other plans for me.

Don't assume. Find out the ANSWERS before you decide something is not an option for you!

When you have questions

Your school counselor, teachers, or principal will have the answers (or know someone who does) to many questions about high school and education after high school. Your family and friends often have good information, too. Do not hesitate to ask as many questions as necessary to obtain all the information you need!

TIPS FOR MAKING YOUR CLASSES COUNT!

*Sit close to the front of the classroom when possible.

*Join in class discussions.

*Ask questions! If you don't understand something, chances are others in the class don't understand either.

*Keep up with class assignments. Finish them before they're due.

*Ask for help in any class in which you find yourself falling behind. Remember, your teachers want to help you succeed!

*Look for ways to sharpen your basic skills in each class. You can practice your writing skills in history, your algebra skills in science, and your math and science skills in your vocational education classes.

*Learn keyboarding skills so you can type your own schoolwork and use a computer.

*Learn to take good class notes. You'll be taking lots of notes throughout the rest of your life.

*Learn to proofread, correct, and rewrite your written work.

*Develop test-taking skills.

SURVIVAL WORDS!

The following terms are important to know when planning for high school.

Class rank A rating which compares your cumulative grade point average to other members of your class. Class rank is often used as a basis for college admission and scholarship determination.

Elective A course you may choose to enroll in, but is not required.

Graduation Requirements Established by your local school.

Prerequisite A course which must be taken before you enroll in another related course. (Example: Spanish 1 is a prerequisite for Spanish 2.)

Required Elective A course you may select to meet a graduation requirement. (Example: You may choose to enroll World History, Psychology, Sociology, Current Events or other social studies classes to meet the Social Studies requirement.)

Unit of Credit Granted upon successful completion of an 18-week (1 semester) course. One-half unit will be granted per semester.

WHAT YOU DO OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL COUNTS, TOO!

*Develop habits now that will help you succeed in high school, in education after high school and in the world of work.

*Find a quiet place to study where you won't be interrupted. Is it just too noisy at home? Ask your family or a teacher to help you find a place to study.

*Plan a daily homework schedule and stick to it. Do more than is required.

*Ask your family or friends to read your written homework. And ask them for help if you're having trouble at school.

*Use your local library. If you don't have a library card now, ask the librarian for one. They're free!

*Read newspapers and magazines. Talk with your family and friends about what you read.

*Look up words you don't understand in the dictionary. Then use your new words in writing and talking.

*Talk with your family about career plans and what you want to do in the future.

It's not too soon to start thinking about YOUR FUTURE!

If you are considering attending a four-year college, university, vocational/technical school, or two year college after high school, you will find it helpful to:

*Make a list of the schools that interest you.

*Gather information from each school and study it.

*Visit the campus of each school you are seriously considering.

*Apply early for admissions and housing.

*Apply early for financial assistance. Pay attention to deadlines listed in the financial aid information you receive.

*Find out about local, state, federal, and private student financial assistance programs.

*Make your decision. Take time to review all information carefully and weigh your options.

If you are considering serving in the ARMED FORCES after high school, you will find it helpful to:

*Visit with friends, neighbors and relatives who have served in various branches of the Armed Forces.

*Study the military literature available in your counseling office.

*Evaluate any physical limitations that might prevent you from serving in the Armed Forces.

*Compare military training opportunities with possible civilian occupations.

*Arrange with your counselor to visit with various military recruiters during your junior and senior years of high school.

*Compare benefits, tours of duty, training, and promotion opportunities of military programs.

If you are considering direct employment after high school, you'll find it helpful to:

*Collect and study materials about writing resumes and letters of application.

*Consider whether you want to move away from your home region after high school.

*Visit with individuals working in various occupations that may be of interest to you.

*Become familiar with major employers in the areas where you are interested in working.