

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

- Participate in the high school orientation and/or walk-through, tour the campus, visit the College & Career Center, the Library, the Tech Center, and computer labs.
- Review your high school *Student Handbook* and *Program Planning Guide*. Set up your *Daily Planner*.
- Become familiar with graduation requirements. Find out how college admission requirements differ from district high school graduation requirements. Develop a four-year academic plan using the ***High School Graduation Requirements*** work sheet. Plan to take four years of math. The math skills required for job training after high school graduation are the same as those expected of first-year college students.
- Attend Club Day and the Volunteer Fair. Get involved!
- Parents are encouraged to attend ***Back-To-School Night*** to meet your teachers and find out about the expectations in each of your classes.
- Plan for college expenses at www.finaid.org and www.scholarshare.com. Consult your family's tax accountant to learn about education IRA's, tax credits for higher education, pre-paid tuition plans, and 529 plans.

OCTOBER

- Progress reports will be issued by teachers to let you know how you are doing. You or your parents may contact teachers about your progress at any time. Teachers will help you arrange for tutoring if necessary. Most high schools have free, peer tutoring programs.

NOVEMBER

- First quarter grade reports are issued in November. Quarter grades are progress grades only. Talk with the teacher if you are not doing as well as you expected.

DECEMBER

- Progress reports will be issued by teachers to let you know how you are doing.

JANUARY

- Prepare to take your first semester final examinations. These tests are two hours long, and will carry considerable weight in determining your semester grade. Exam week is the last week of the semester.
- Review your first semester grades. Only semester grades are recorded on your official high school transcript. Each semester passing grade earns five credits. Freshman grades are important because all college-preparatory courses must be completed with semester grades of C or better, and some colleges use freshman grades in the grade point average computed for admission purposes. Consider getting a tutor if any of your semester grades are lower than you expected.

FEBRUARY

- Record your semester grades on your four-year academic plan, and start a file for your report cards and test scores.
- Apply to UC Berkeley's summer *Academic Talent Development Program* (ATDP), if desired. Many other summer enrichment programs are available on college campuses. See the *Summer Opportunities Bulletin*, which is published monthly, February through May, and is posted at the Northgate High School Parent Club web site: www.northgatehs-pfc.com. Click on *College & Career Center*.
- Begin the course selection process for next year. Review your grades and goals, talk with your teachers about continuing on to more advanced courses, and explore electives that are offered to tenth graders. Pay special attention to courses that are required for high school graduation or college admission.

MARCH

- Progress reports will be issued by teachers to let you know how you are doing.
- Parents are invited to attend *Open House* in the spring. Students and parents will have a chance to see what has been accomplished during the school year. It is also a good time for you to explore elective classes by seeing what students are doing in other areas and asking questions. Art and Performing Arts classes often have special exhibits or performances the evening of Open House.

APRIL

- Third quarter grade reports are issued. Review the courses you selected for next year. Talk with your teachers to determine if you are signed-up for courses in which you can succeed.
- Inquire about summer school. Do you need to make up credits for graduation, or improve grades for college admission, during the summer?
- Visit community college web sites or bookstores for summer and/or fall class schedules. Obtain *Concurrent Enrollment Forms* from the College & Career Center or your Vice-Principal if you hope to take a community college course in the summer or in the fall. Administrative approval must be obtained by mid-June.

MAY

- Progress reports will be issued.
- Complete and submit any applications required for summer classes, and/or fall classes at the community college.

JUNE

- Prepare to take semester final exams. Scheduled the last week of the semester, final exams may not be taken in advance.
- Record your second semester grades, which will be mailed to you in late June, on your four-year academic plan.
- Report to MDUSD summer school. To receive credit, you must arrive on time, and miss no more than 1 day per term.
- Keep a record of your volunteer hours and activities, the names of all volunteer supervisors, coaches, or sponsors, and contact information. You may need to verify community service and activities when you apply to college.
- Visit www.csumentor.edu and start a high school planner. The planner will allow you to track your progress towards meeting both University of California and California State University subject requirements. It will also simplify completing your application for admission during your Senior year. Click on the "Plan for College" tab, then on "H.S. Planner." 11/08

