



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLEGE PREP

FRESHMAN YEAR COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

ACADEMICS & CURRICULUM

- ☐ Build strong reading, mathematics, and critical thinking skills by taking challenging courses. Take your academics seriously.
 - The courses you take in high school show colleges what kind of goals you set for yourself. Are you signing up for advanced classes, honors sections, or accelerated sequences? Are you choosing electives that really stretch your mind and help you develop new abilities? Or are you doing just enough to get by? Colleges will be more impressed by respectable grades in challenging courses than by outstanding grades in easy ones.
- ☐ Focus on note taking and strong study habits. Get to know your teachers and ask lots of questions.
- ☐ Keep in mind the courses that colleges expect you to have completed for admission; your schedule should consist of at least four college preparatory classes per year, including:
 - four years of English
 - three-four years of math (through algebra II, trigonometry or higher)
 - two-four years of world language
 - three-four years of laboratory science
 - two-four years of history/social studies
 - one year of fine arts
 - two years of electives (from a specified selection)

Fall Dates

10/13 - How to Pay for College Night for parents

10/15 – PSAT Testing

NOTE: SV academic counselors ensure that you take the required college prep courses, but it is good information to know regardless.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- ☐ Explore extracurricular interests. Stay active in clubs, activities, and sports that you enjoy.
 - Colleges look at more than just your academic record for admission. It's important that you demonstrate your abilities outside of the classroom, too.
- ☐ Engage in meaningful Community Service. Every SV student is required to give their time and their talents in service to local non-profit organizations. Find your passion.

Spring Dates

1/12 - Freshman & Sophomore college planning night (for parents and students)

BEING ORGANIZED AND BALANCED

- ☐ Create a file of important documents and notes.
 - Copies of report cards and certificates, lists of awards and honors, and lists of school and community activities in which you are involved, including both paid and volunteer work with descriptions of your responsibilities.
- ☐ Start your resume of activities in Maia Learning.
- ☐ Learn time and stress management skills.
- ☐ Summer · Read: This is the best long-term practice you could hope to get for standardized testing. Participate in summer programs, volunteer experiences, or summer jobs.