

9th Grade Checklist

Start Strong - Keep Grades Up

Stay focused on school work, attend classes, and develop good study habits. Ask your teachers for strategies on how to stay organized. These things will help you reach your goal of keeping your grades up. Your GPA starts accumulating in 9th grade so set specific academic goals. Don't wait until the last minute to complete assignments or to study for exams. Simple step - get assignments turned in on time.

Learn About Yourself

Start exploring your strengths and interests. Identifying the things you enjoy and are passionate about will help guide you in creating a post high school plan. Learn your natural strengths by taking the "Strength Finder" through Naviance. Take Career Interest Inventories to match your interests with possible careers. (Career Information System (CIS), Naviance).

Learn How To Communicate With Adults

Eye contact and a warm greeting can go a long way! Put the phone (or any electronics) away and practice talking to adults face to face. Greet others with a handshake and ask clear questions. Create a personal email that's professional and can be given to teachers or employers or colleges. Get into the habit of checking your email because this is how adults in schools and businesses communicate.

Represent Yourself Well (Social Media)

Many employers and colleges and those granting scholarships now look at social media to find out more about the applicant's character and values. Social media is an easy portfolio for anyone to view and learn a lot about you. How are you representing yourself?

Get Involved in Extracurricular Activities

Joining a club, playing a sport, or volunteering at church - these all count toward becoming a well-rounded student, which will help when its time to apply to colleges, vocational programs, for scholarships, or even when seeking employment. Also valuable things to put on a resume.

Get Familiar With Your Choices

You've got more than one! Whatever your career goals are, chances are they will require some education and training after high school. People usually earn more based on how much education they've obtained beyond high school. (4 year or 2 year college, technical-vocational training, military, job corps, apprenticeship, employment) Lots of options - be open minded.

Career & Technical Education Classes (CTE)

9th graders will have an opportunity to sign up for career training classes through our district's CTE programs. These off-site courses help students learn technical & professional skills and receive hands-on training for careers like welding, auto tech, culinary arts, computer science, law enforcement and more. See our district website for more info: www.westada.org/cte.

Seek Out Mentoring and Support

Be sure to meet with your mentor and school counselor so they can provide you the best help possible. Talk to your friends about their goals. Talk to your parents and see if they know people in your interested field of work. This is the time to gather information about possible careers.