Freshman Checklist for College Readiness (Class of 2023)

Fall
Plan for the Year Ahead

• Meet with your counselor to discuss your college plans and course schedule and endorsements.
• Review your schedule to make sure you are enrolled in challenging and rigorous classes. A wide variety of advanced courses are available to you including AP, Dual Credit, Dual Enrollment, etc. Also, colleges prefer at least three years of a foreign language and four years of core classes.
• Start thinking about your career goals and talk to people in that field - ask lots of questions!
• GET INVOLVED in extracurricular activities and begin to make a resume of your activities. This will be of great use for you when starting to apply for college admissions as well as jobs.
• Attend college fairs and ask lots of questions about admissions, majors, financial aid, programs, etc.
• WORK HARD on your academics, grade point average, homework and semester exams.
• Develop good work habits for homework and time management skills.

Take the PSAT 9th

• The PSAT will be administered on October 16, 2019.
• AISD will pay for you to take it and there is no need to pre-register.
• Be ready to do your best as the PSAT score is not only a predictor of how well you will do on the actual SAT but also it is used as a measure of College Readiness!

Spring
Prepare for Tests

• Do your very best on your end-of-course exams. Talk to your counselor if you have questions.
• Prepare for your semester exams and finish strong!

Signing up for Courses for Next Fall

• Talk to your counselor and teachers about taking AP, Dual Credit, Dual Enrollment, or Articulated courses next fall so that you can earn college credits while in high school.
• Check your progress towards graduation; that you are earning the needed credits and maintaining a strong GRADE POINT AVERAGE.
• Revise and update your 4 YEAR PLAN (in TEAMS) and make sure you are completing needed classes to earn your endorsement.

Learn About Colleges

• Visit colleges online and compare programs, cost of attendance and even take a virtual tour at https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org and https://www.ownyourownfuture.com
• Tour colleges during Spring break or in the summer (colleges have special events for high school students).

Stay Focused

• Make sure to be doing your best in all classes
• Keep in mind the GPA (which drives your rank) that you will use to apply for college during the Summer/Fall of your senior year is calculated from ALL coursework taken from ninth-11th grade.

Explore Summer Opportunities

• Look for summer opportunities to put on your resume; internships, jobs or classes taken in the summer.
• Keep track of your volunteer activities and enrichment programs that you participate in.
• Talk to your counselor about taking advanced courses; like AP, Dual Credit and/or Dual Enrollment in the spring of your sophomore year or be ready to take additional advanced courses for the new school year.
• Start a summer reading list and visit college campuses (many colleges have special events during the summer).
Resources

Academic Resources
How To Start Making Your College Dream A Reality: http://www.ownyourfuture.com
What’s Avid?: https://austinisd.org/avid
SAT Customized Test Prep: www.khanacademy.org
ACT Personalized Practice: www.academy.act.org
TSI Test Prep Through ACCUPLACER & Download the APP: https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice
TSI Test Prep Through through the ACC Website: http://sites.austincc.edu/tsiprep/

College Resources
Explore And Compare College Options: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search
Naviance College Match: www.student.naviance.com
Compare Colleges: https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/
Get Financial Aid Guidance: https://StudentAid.gov

Career Resources
Where To Learn About Careers? https://roadtripnation.com
Explore Careers: Naviance Student App: (www.student.naviance.com)
Other Career Exploration Tools: http://launchmycareertx.org
Careers In The Military: https://www.careersinthemilitary.com/
ASVAB Test: Contact a Recruiter: http://www.todaysmilitary.com/

College Fairs
NH College Fair—February 12, 2020 at the Austin Sports Center (9 a.m.- noon)
NACAC Austin National College Fair—April 16, 2020 at the Palmer Event Center (5:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.)