

I Want my Child to go to College
A 10th Grade Parent's Checklist

1. PSAT is in October. Make sure your child takes this assessment seriously. The 10th grade PSAT is a great tool to help you and your child see what academic skills still need developing. If your child should score very well on this assessment, expect to receive letters from colleges and universities. Even if your child does not score in the top 25% this does not mean that he/she is not college material. A standardized test score should not be used to close doors, only open them. (Currently NISD pays for all sophomores to take the PSAT.)
2. Career exploration is critical for sophomores. On their PSAT score report, each student will receive an access code for My College Quickstart, an on-line toolbox to help with career and college planning. Also, the GO Center has access to other computer programs that help students narrow their search for careers. As a person determines what kind of career he/she is interested in, the search for a college program follows naturally. What is difficult to do is to select a college without knowing what you want to study.
3. This is the year that students can apply for Dual Credit classes for the first time. If you want your child to apply for this program, make sure he/she attends the Dual Credit information meetings held on the Stevens campus in December or January. Qualifying students may take up to 2 dual credit courses their junior year.
4. When it comes time to select courses for the next school year (usually in early February), have your child sign up for rigorous AP courses in his/her best subjects. Taking just one AP exam (available in May of the year they take an AP course), significantly improves the chances of college graduation in 4 years.
5. Of course, grades continue to be important, as does financial preparedness. Some sophomores are able to get part-time jobs. This is a great opportunity for students to learn to save money for greater goals, rather than spending their paychecks on current desires. Help your employed child set aside money from each paycheck for future college expenses. Also, national studies show that many students who work 25 or more hours a week can expect lower grades. Keeping this in mind, we recommend that your child work 20 or fewer hours a week. This also allows time for volunteering and extra-curricular participation.
6. Continue to look into essay and public-speaking scholarship competitions that are open to all age levels and the PTSA Reflections contest. Remember, that not all scholarship competitions are created equal and some are out-right scams. If in doubt about the quality of a scholarship competition, please visit with your child's counselor.
7. The college admissions process is not as easy as walking on campus and registering. If you are unfamiliar with this process, our junior colleges offer Community Education Centers where their staff can show you what is needed and how your child can put together an application packet. – the closest one is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is located at

- a. **Westside Community Education Center**
Edgewood Competency Based High School

563 S.W. 40th Street (at Old Hwy 90)
San Antonio, TX 78237

Office: (210) 438-9565