

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Fall

1. Homeless youth, their parents or guardian should locate the Georgia McKinney-Vento Liaison representative for their school district. The McKinney-Vento Liaison addresses the problems that homeless children and youth face enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. **Click** below to locate your representative: ([McKinney-Vento District Homeless Liaison Contacts List](#)).
2. Locate the guidance counselor's office and schedule an appointment to sit down and introduce yourself. You should share your housing status, so that you have someone who knows the challenges and obstacles you face attending school and to help you start your blueprint for graduation. Do not forget to share your dreams for the future!
3. Choose your class schedule, you should have a combination of required classes (English, math, science, history, and a foreign language) and some college-prep, tech-prep, or certification classes if they are offered at your school. Always pursue excellence (good grades & character and ask for help when you need it). It is never too early to start working on your dreams.
4. Ask your guidance counselor about taking the PSAT 8/9.
  - This version of PSAT is for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders, PSAT8/9 will help you know if you are on track for college and let you know where you need the most improvement. The goal is to give you time to work on those areas (<https://blog.prepscholar.com/do-you-need-to-take-both-the-act-and-sat>).
  - Ask for a fee Waiver. The College Board & National College Fairs provides them. **Click** below for information on how to get a waiver:  
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/about/benefits/college-application-fee-waivers>.  
<https://www.nacacfairs.org/learn/fee-waiver>.
5. Homelessness should not keep you from extracurricular activities. Get involved, join a school sponsored club, team, or group. It can be fun, you can meet people with like interest, and it helps to make you a more well-rounded person.

### Winter

1. Keep up your grades (it may be difficult, but you can do it with help), your grades determine your GPA (grade point average) and your class rank. If you are having trouble keeping up your grades, ask for a tutor/help. Everyone will need help at some point in their life!
2. Ask your counselor about Career Day and attend if you can, this will help you learn more about your interests and what is required for you to pursue them.

### Spring

1. Keep a record of any academic or extracurricular awards, and community service achievements you receive; it may be difficult if you are moving around a lot (checkout the online cloud space app offered on the community resource page on Dream Connect: (<https://www.dreamconnect.org>), the app allows you to keep a digital record of your important accomplishments. This information is also useful for creating a resume and filling out school applications.
2. Start to check-out schools (state colleges, universities, on-line colleges, technical schools, and private colleges & universities).
  - look for information in your counselor's office.

- check the internet for schools that have support services for students who are homeless.
- start a list of schools that interest you, do not overlook state schools. Check-out the college resource page on Dream Connect: (<https://www.dreamconnect.org>).

Talk to your teachers about your search and your list. Ask questions and see if it is possible to speak with a representative from the schools on your list. Also, check to see if it is possible to arrange a visit to the campus.

### **Summer**

1. Make your summer count by finding a volunteer experience, a job, or signing up for a summer program offered through your school. You should also consider summer classes to stay on track for graduation. Check-out the high school resource page on Dream Connect: (<https://www.dreamconnect.org>).