

**Get ready for the big time.** Next year you'll start an exciting new chapter. It's a good idea to start thinking about what you want to get out of high school. What do you want to do when you graduate? And what's the plan to help you get there?

## ✓ THIS SCHOOL YEAR -----

### Get the conversation started now.

Talk to an adult about what you like to do, what you're good at and what you want for your future. Ask questions. Ask for advice. Listen.

### Do something new.

If you haven't yet, get involved in an extracurricular activity or hobby. Part of being a well rounded student (and person) is participating in activities that teach you new skills and challenge you to work hard, while doing something that you enjoy or have a passion for.

### Make your high school plan.

This year, you'll make a plan for the courses you'll take in high school. This plan gets approved by your parents and will help determine your path to graduation.

### Pay attention to your GPA.

Your grades between freshman and junior years will be one of the most important factors in college acceptance and scholarship money.

Now is the time to decide what type of high school student you want to be. Make an effort to practice good study habits and hone your test taking skills.

### Explore career paths.

Idaho's Career Information System (CIS) allows you to track your educational goals, take assessment tests to help you figure out what kinds of jobs you might be good at, look further into career options and educational pathways, and help you plan for the financial needs that your choices may require. Check it out: [www.idahocis.org](http://www.idahocis.org)

### Read all the books!

You've heard this your whole life. But it's more important than ever to keep reading—everything you can get your hands on. Keep a list of the next three books you plan to read. Challenge yourself! Explore new topics and genres. Talk about what you're reading with your teachers and friends. Get recommendations from a librarian or online.

### Understand your options.

Life after high school might mean going to a four-year college or enrolling in a technical training program. You've got plenty of choices and time to explore post-high school opportunities. But the more you understand now, the easier it will be to make decisions (or at least have options) as you progress toward graduation.

## ✓ THIS SUMMER -----

### Get a head start on next year's reading.

There's no better time than summer break to dig into some awesome new books.