

**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. 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. They can also affect your chances at getting a job if you'll be going right to work after high school graduation.

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.

Check out the career information resources on the Next Steps website and find tools to keep track of your goals, quizzes to help you figure out what kind of jobs you might enjoy, and information about career options education pathways to help you achieve your goals.

### 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, enrolling in a career technical training program, or starting an apprenticeship. 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 the widest array of options) as you get closer to 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.