

GOALS PROGRESS – Handout 2

Tenth Grade Checklist of Activities to Prepare for Post-Secondary Plans

Fall

- Review transcript and graduation requirements with counselor and/or advisor.
- Review WESTTEST scores with your counselor and parents.
- In October, take the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) for practice. When you fill out your test sheet, check the box that releases your name to colleges so you can start receiving brochures from them.
- Take the PLAN (Pre-ACT) assessment program, which helps determine your study habits and academic progress and interests. This test will prepare you for the ACT Assessment next year.
- Take on-line career interest inventory to find career matches.
- Take the ASVAB or similar aptitude/interest inventory.
- Research potential careers.
- Complete community service
- Review websites, view books, and brochures regarding your career of interest to find out eligibility requirements.
- Become familiar with entrance for trade schools, 2-year and 4-year colleges, military, apprenticeship programs, etc. that match your career plans.
- Become familiar with other career options and requirements.
- Participate in your school's or state's career development activities.

Winter

- Discuss your PSAT/PLAN scores with your counselor/advisor/parents.
- Get involved in co-curricular activities (outside the classroom).
- Work toward leadership positions in the activities that you like best.
- Become involved in community service and other volunteer activities.
- Read, read, read. Read as many books as possible from a comprehensive reading list.
- Work on your writing skills—you'll need them no matter what you do.
- Find a teacher or another adult who will advise regarding personal/social matters and encourage you to do well in school, write well, and make good decisions.

Spring

- Keep your grades up so you can have the highest GPA and class rank possible.
- Ask your counselor/advisor about postsecondary credit options, dual credit, EDGE credit, Advanced Placement (AP) courses and other ways to earn college credit while in high school.
- Continue to explore interests and careers that you think you might like.
- Begin zeroing in on the type of training you would prefer after high school (two-year or four-year, small or large, rural or urban, hands-on, military, etc).
- If you are interested in attending a military academy, such as West Point or Annapolis, seek information from your counselor. Contact your congressman for a nomination.
- Explore college/career websites to determine academic requirements for admission/eligibility.
- Visit at least one college campuses. Read all of the mail you receive from colleges, technical schools, etc. You may see something you like.
- Attend college/career fairs. Keep putting money away for college. Get a summer job.