

BLUEPRINT for Freshman Year

Maximize the High School Experience

You have arrived. And now you are embarking on a new journey that will encompass four of the most important years of your life – high school. Your job is to enjoy the next four years...have fun, study hard and take part in all that New Egypt has to offer both in and out of the classroom. And, no matter what you have heard and thought until now, it is not too early to start thinking about where you would like to be and what you would like to do when you graduate.

It is not necessary to invest an inordinate amount of time thinking about this right now. Some of you will and some of you will not, but however you choose to approach this is acceptable (For now.) But take some time to read the **BLUEPRINT**, find one or two or ten items on the list below that speak to you, and attempt to put this information into a perspective that is useful.

High School is a time of immense possibilities and challenges. Even a small amount of time spent at the beginning, thinking about things that will become more critical as you continue, will be time well spent. This is an excellent time for long-term planning and for starting things that will be filled in and completed later.

Fall Semester

- Schedule a semi-annual conference with your school counselor;
- Review your four-year high school education plan with your guidance counselor;
- Identify academic and personal/extracurricular goals you would like to accomplish this year;
- Start keeping a journal of memorable experiences – this will be useful when filling out college applications;
- Begin a list of your activities starting with the summer before freshman year – this will be the basis for your resume/portfolio (you can use the Naviance resume builder to keep track of it);
- Think about how you will finance your college education – make plans to attend Financial Aid Night with your parents;
- Complete the “Career Cluster Finder” on Naviance;

- Visit college campuses close to home and when you travel to see friends and relatives in other places;
- Use a planner to keep track of assignments, work, social and extracurricular commitments;
- Join clubs and activities in your areas of interest;
- Now is a great time to start something new – join the school newspaper, participate in a new sport, try out a new musical instrument;
- Establish and build relationships with peers, teachers, counselors, coaches, activity supervisors and employers;

Spring Semester

- Schedule a semi-annual conference with your school counselor;
- Attend College Night at New Egypt High School with your parents in April – learn about such things as college admission and testing requirements, the college application process, and choosing a major;
- Access a college application and/or the Common Application from the internet and see what kind of information the colleges will be seeking from you;
- Start thinking about what you like to do and do well, and what kinds of careers allow you to use those skills – talk to parents and other adults about your interests and find opportunities to meet people working in the professions that you think may interest you;
- Create folders for career and college information that you will begin to accumulate;
- Review - with your guidance counselor - your four-year education plan with an eye toward next year and subsequent years;
- Make your summer count – get a summer job, internship or volunteer position to enhance your resume;
- Complete the “Strengths Explorer” on Naviance.