

# **BLUEPRINT for Sophomore Year**

## **Become Immersed in the College and Career Process**

Sophomore year is the year for expanding your horizons regarding college and career choice and the process that will lead you there. Grades and the quality of your coursework are very important. It is not too early to begin identifying potential majors and career choices and colleges you may be interested in attending. You will be taking the PSAT for the first time this year. The **BLUEPRINT** is all about being proactive and starting the process earlier – at least a year earlier than traditionally has been the case. That translates to sophomore year.

By now you understand the high school process and where you fit into the system. It is time to ask the question: “Where do I see myself and what will I be doing in three years, after graduation from high school?” Right now it is more important for you to **ASK** the question than it is for you to be able to answer it. Although some of you will have an answer, most of you will not. And almost all the answers you come up with will change many times over the next six or seven years.

Also, by the end of sophomore year you should be starting to focus less on doing many, many activities and more on identifying those that are of particular interest to you. Now is the time to consider increasing participation in a smaller number of activities, and assuming a position or positions of leadership. Whether it is a sport, extracurricular activity, or employment, college admissions officers are looking for progression. Whatever your approach, enjoy your sophomore year of high school, make sure you get everything you want and need from it, and move through it with an eye toward the future.

## **Throughout the Year**

- Strengthen relationships with peers, teachers, counselors, coaches, activity leaders, and employers – this will be the source for recommendations later;
- Make use of the Naviance System to research colleges, majors, and careers;
- Maintain your journal and resume/portfolio;
- Add to your college and career folders;
- Research and consider Advanced Placement courses to take during junior year;
- Attend some individual visits to New Egypt High School by college representatives; visit college campuses close to home and when you travel;

- Towards the end of the year, create a free account with the Kahn Academy, via collegeboard.org to prep for the SAT. You will be able to link your PSAT scores to your account. The Kahn Academy will develop a recommended plan to prep for the SAT;

### **Fall Semester**

- Schedule a semi-annual conference with your school counselor;
- Develop a list of college majors and occupations that interest you and review and revise your four-year education plan with these in mind;
- Identify academic and personal/extracurricular goals that you would like to accomplish during the year;
- Remember that you will be taking the PSAT in February. This is valuable practice for the SAT. Review your PSAT results with your guidance counselor and figure out how to make improvements if necessary;
- Access a college application and/or common application from the internet and see what kind of information colleges will be seeking from you;
- Seek out leadership roles in clubs and activities;
- Discuss college financing options with your family – attend Financial Aid Night at New Egypt High School.
- Complete the “Do What You Are” assessment on Naviance;

### **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;
- Consider taking the May or June SAT depending on your course placement;
- Look into NCAA requirements if you think you may want to participate in sports in college;
- Make plans (in early Spring) for an interesting summer job, internship, educational program, community service or travel experience;

- Spend some time researching colleges – try to narrow down a list of schools that are appealing...urban or rural, big or small, public or private;
- Complete the “Game Plan” on Naviance;
- Complete the “Career Interest Profiler” on Naviance