



# 9th Grade Planning Checklist

**This checklist is designed to help you make the most of your time in school and to prepare you for college. It's never too soon to start planning your future!**

- Grades count! The higher your GPA, the better your chances of getting into college and receiving scholarships.
- Work with your counselor to plan out your coursework. Learn about the admissions requirements for colleges you are interested in so you can make wise decisions in your course planning.
- Talk to your counselor now about programs that allow you to earn college credit while in high school.
- Read whenever and whatever you can—books, magazines, newspapers. Try to read about 30 minutes a day outside of school work
- Use computers to help with your classwork and take advantage of all the information available on the internet to keep you up to date on the world around you.
- Continue to use a planner for school assignments and important deadlines.
- Explore extracurricular activities such as school clubs, student government, sports, church programs and volunteer opportunities in your community. Your life outside of school is important to colleges and improves your chances of receiving a scholarship.
- Explore SchoolLinks/Xello and research the subjects and careers you're interested in. Set future goals and learn about the things you need to begin working on now to achieve these goals.
- Meet with your I Know I Can College Advisor to talk about and begin planning for your future.
- CCS students are required to complete 120 internship hours to graduate. Ask your counselor about internship opportunities and keep track of these hours.
- Try to increase your college savings. Ask adults at school about summer job opportunities for students your age. Put half of what you earn in your college fund.

**DREAM BIG. WORK HARD. WE'LL HELP.**