



CREATING YOUR PATH

~~~~~ P H S ~~~~~

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# FRESHMAN YEAR

## ~~~~~ TRANSITION ~~~~~

### Building a Solid Foundation

- Settle in to the routine of high school.
- Use a planner, Google Calendar, or your own method of keeping organized!
- Create a school appropriate email address and manage it regularly.
- Meet your school counselor!
- Develop relationships with trusted adults in your high school.
- Join a club, sport, or get involved in the arts.
- Do you best in strong academic courses - balance new experiences and activities.
- Commit to volunteer projects.
- Use Xello to do the Matchmaker, Personality Style, and Learning Style surveys.
- Take inventory of yourself - what subjects do you like? What do you enjoy doing outside of school? What things would you like to get involved in? What are your short term and long term goals?
- Start a file or folder of important information for your plans after high school. This can be physical or electronic (Google Docs or Xello). Ideas to include: awards, certificates, volunteer/work references, list of goals, etc.
- Explore future options. Talk to people about their careers. Talk to older students who have plans after high school. Ask them what they would have done differently.
- Visit a college campus for drama productions, concerts, or sporting events.
- Have at least one serious talk with your parents about your future, your plans, and what expectations they have for you.
- Refer back to your 4-year plan... have your plans changed? Are you thinking about the right classes for sophomore year?



# TRANSITION

# SOPHOMORE YEAR

## EXPLORATION

### Learning About Yourself

- Keep your future options open by being successful in solid academic courses.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT test in October - as practice. Sign up for Khan Academy to practice PSAT questions personalized to you.
- Continue your involvement in clubs, arts, sports, work, or volunteer activities - do something that you love!
- Use Xello to explore Career Options, Work Values, and Workplace Skills and Attitudes.
- Use Xello to define your career pathway and research possible careers -explore a few in depth.
- Explore your career pathway, PHS courses, and career technical education (CTE) options.
- Check out post-secondary options in the Counseling Office... College, Military, Certificate Programs, Gap Year, Apprenticeship, On the Job, Training, Trade or Technical Schools, etc.
- Meet with your school counselor and continue to develop relationships with trusted adults in school.
- Attend the NCMC College Fair in the Fall or the Charlevoix High School College Fair in the Spring.
- Continue talking to your parents about your path after high school and financing that path.
- Refer back to your 4-year plan and short/long term goals... have your plans changed? Are you thinking about the right classes for junior year?
- Update your file or folder of important information for your plans after high school and check in with your school counselor. Maintain good habits, like checking your email.



# EXPLORE

# JUNIOR YEAR

## CHOICES

### Considering Your Options

- Keep your options open by continuing to work hard in solid academic courses.
- Visit with college, trade school, or military personal who come to Petoskey High School.
- Attend the NCMC College Fair in the Fall and the Charlevoix High School College Fair in the Spring. Attend Paying for College Night in the Fall.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT test in October. Continue your practice on Khan Academy.
- Attend the Junior Parent Meeting for students and parents in the Fall.
- Complete the Junior Survey and sign up for your Junior Conference.
- Follow up Junior Conference by develop a list of options for life after high school - include possible colleges, apprenticeships, internships, etc.
- Use Xello to explore pathway options for life after high school.
- Plan visits to colleges, trade schools, job sites, etc.
- Prepare for the SAT in the Spring using Khan Academy or prep books.
- Connect with your school counselor on your search progress. Connect with trusted adults and think about who will write your letters of recommendation.
- Develop a resume, a list of individuals to ask for letters of recommendation, and update your file or folder of important information for your plans after high school. Maintain your school email.
- Talk with your parents about your plans and how to finance them.
- Refer back to your 4-year plan and short/long term goals... have your plans changed? Are you thinking about the right classes for senior year?



# CHOICES

# SENIOR YEAR

## ~~~~~ COMMITMENT ~~~~~

### Taking Action to Reach Your Goals

- Enroll in solid academic course load - check your credits for graduation.
- Implement the 2-hour rule. Set aside 2 hours every week to work on post-secondary plans. This time could include applications, exploration, scholarships, personal statements, resume building, etc.
- Attend Paying for College Night in the Fall.
- Research scholarship opportunities and apply for FAFSA.
- Contact teachers and school counselor in person about request for letters of recommendation with at least two weeks notice.
- Narrow your long list of options for life after high to school to small list. If applying to colleges, include reach, match, and safe options.
- Meet with your school counselor to update on your progress.
- Create a calendar of important dates. Submit applications in advance of deadlines. Maintain your email.
- Visit with representatives who come to PHS. Visit colleges or job sites whenever possible.
- Share your admission decisions with your school counselor and notify the appropriate individuals of your commitment.
- Finish your senior year with the same commitment you have shown in previous years.



# Commitment