

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church  
Christian Education Ministry

Presents:

***High School Student  
and Parent Instructions  
for College Preparation***



**Trinity Missionary Baptist Church**  
**Christian Education Ministry**

**Year-by-Year Plan**

**Getting Ready for High School – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- Even though your grades from eighth grade do not affect your GPA, nor do they appear on your transcript, these grades are often used to determine ninth grade course placement.
- Students who develop good study skills by the eighth grade are much better prepared for high school.
- Eighth grade students select their freshman courses in the spring. These courses should be chosen carefully. Spring is also a good time to develop a four year high school plan.
- Students involved in extra-curricular activities have greater academic success, and generally enjoy high school more. College and scholarship committees also like to see well-rounded and active students. With your parents, begin to identify specific high school activities that you might enjoy.
- Ask your counselor about the Midwest Academic Talent Search, and how to qualify.

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**9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- Work hard to get good grades. Set academic goals at the start of each grading period and keep track of progress reports and report cards. Remember that your freshman grades will be on your transcript and figured into your grade point average (GPA).
- Become involved in a wide variety of activities. Many college and scholarship applications ask for lists of activities and honors. The applications also ask for evidence of leadership, so be sure to take a leadership position in your activities wherever possible.
- Tips: Sometimes during your first year, begin keeping a record of your school honors, awards, activities and volunteer work. Start an Activities List, and update at least once a year. Include everything that you do! This information will be helpful when you are required to list honors activities on college and scholarship applications.

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- Sign up for the PLAN if it is offered at school. The PLAN estimates ACT score range in English, Math, Reading, and Science. You will also receive an evaluation of your interests.
- Consider taking the PSAT/NMSQT in October.
- Don't forget to update your Activities List!

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**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- Register for the PSAT/NMSQT in September. The test will be administered by your high school in October.
- Students with exceptionally high scores are recognized by National Merit Foundation. This recognition can lead to a scholarship. Results of PSAT are available in mid-to-late December.
- Register for the ACT and/or SAT early in the spring. The ACT is offered nationally in October, December, February, April and June. The SAT is offered in October, November, December, January, March, May, and June.
- Student can register for the ACT at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) and for the SAT at [www.collegebound.com](http://www.collegebound.com).
- Register a couple of months before you plan to take the test. Deadlines for registration are about five weeks prior to each test date.
- Tip For an additional fee, ACT and SAT will send you the test questions, your answers, and the correct answers.
- Don't forget to update your Activities List!

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- Review your previous test scores and determine whether or not you need to take the ACT and/or SAT in October.
- Sign up for the ACT or SAT if necessary.

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- Register early in September if you plan to take the tests in October.

**Test Taking Tips – Doing Your Best**

- Get plenty of sleep the night before the test.
- Follow directions exactly, and don't be afraid to ask questions.
- Mark your answer folder carefully. Fill in the ovals neatly.
- Don't spend too much time on any single question. For hard ones, choose the answer you think is best and move on.
- There is no penalty for guessing on the PLAN or ACT tests. Be sure to answer every questions.
- For the PSAT/NMSQT, there is a penalty for every incorrect response (fraction of a point). If you have no idea of what the correct response is, leave it blank. If you can eliminate one or more answer choices, make an "educated guess."

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