

## College Planning: Freshman Year

- ❑ Challenge yourself academically; take AP, IB, and Honors courses.
  - ❑ Most colleges require:
    - ❑ 4 years of English
    - ❑ 4 years of math
    - ❑ 3 years of different lab sciences
    - ❑ 2 years of social studies
    - ❑ 2 years of the same foreign language
    - ❑ 1 year of fine art or 1 year of CTE (for in state schools)
- ❑ Get and stay involved in activities and community service projects that interest you and seek leadership roles in those activities.
- ❑ Maintain a strong G.P.A (Grade Point Average) throughout high school by developing good study habits and a group of friends that you can study with who share the same goals for success. All semester grades for the next 4 years contribute to the GPA.
- ❑ If you start struggling in a class, be sure to talk to your teacher and get a tutor list from your counselor. If you fail or get low grades in any classes, make plans to retake them as soon as possible.
- ❑ Develop a plan to pay for college with your parents.
- ❑ Develop your **4 year Academic Plan**. Remember that excelling in “core courses” increases your chance of scoring well on college entrance exams. This will also help you focus on the classes you should take to compliment your career and educational choices.
- ❑ Begin an electronic profile about yourself in [Naviance/Family Connection](#).
  - Login: Enter your school’s zip code
  - District username
  - password: your "other" password
  - ❑ **Resume**- helps you track the classes and activities you have participated in; such as Honors, AP classes, GPA, Clubs/Organizations, Leadership positions, sports, performing arts, speech and debate, community service, volunteer work, awards, etc. This information will be needed when you complete your College and/or Scholarship Applications and will help provide information for the Letters of Recommendation requests during your junior or senior year.
  - ❑ **Game Plan**- is your goals, plans and personal information
- ❑ Get involved and participate in school activities, events, sports, community service and summer programs that will enrich your experiences.
- ❑ Encourage your parents to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences.

The bolded items are an ECAP (Education and Career Action Plan) requirement through the AZ State Department of Education. Paradise Valley School district provides Naviance/Family Connection for all of our high school students to have a digital portfolio of the required items and provide students and parents with a tool for career and college planning and research.