

# Freshman Year

	Websites & Additional Resources
Make the grades and be on time.	Track your grades in the <a href="#">Home Access Center</a>
Are you a member of the Class of 2027 Schoology group?	Access Code: BFB2-ND2Q-K2F2K
College Major Research	<a href="https://www.myplan.com/majors/what-to-do-with-a-major.php">https://www.myplan.com/majors/what-to-do-with-a-major.php</a> <a href="https://www.princetonreview.com/college-major-search">https://www.princetonreview.com/college-major-search</a>
Get involve in the community or at school	You might be drawn to sports, student council, music, or art. Join your fellow high school students in an after-school group or club. <a href="https://www.cfisd.net/domain/2827">https://www.cfisd.net/domain/2827</a>
Prep for College Exams	Taking the PSAT/NMSQT, as a 10 <sup>th</sup> grader is a perfect way to practice for the SAT. Taking the PSAT/NMSQT as a junior can help you qualify for scholarships. Complete practice test in Bluebook: These practice tests are available for free, both online and on paper. <a href="https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt/preparing/practice-tests">https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt/preparing/practice-tests</a> The PSAT/NMSQT is almost the same test as the SAT, so if you want to get more preparation based on your practice test on Bluebook™, you can take advantage of resources on Khan Academy® <a href="https://www.khanacademy.org/digital-sat/confirmed">https://www.khanacademy.org/digital-sat/confirmed</a>
Making a College Plan	<a href="#">Big Future Make a College Plan</a>
Create a College List (Where do you want to apply?) 10/3 College Night @ Berry Center	<a href="https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/">https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/</a> <a href="https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/">https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/</a> <a href="https://www.collegedata.com/">https://www.collegedata.com/</a> <a href="#">Cappex.com</a>
Research College Admission Requirements (For each college)	Visit the university's website & search for: "Freshman" / "Undergraduate Admissions" / "Future Students" or, Institution-specific app on their website. Also Visit the <a href="#">Cy-Lakes College and Career College Admission page.</a>
Earn College Credit in High School	Enroll in <a href="#">Advanced Placement or Dual Credit</a> classes At Cypress lakes High School Save time and money. Learn more on the <a href="#">Cypress Lakes Dual Credit website.</a> How do college credits <a href="#">transfer</a> ?
Scholarships	Apply for other scholarships...many & often! <a href="#">CFISD Scholarship Bulletin</a> <a href="http://www.FastWeb.com">www.FastWeb.com</a> <a href="http://www.FinAid.org">www.FinAid.org</a> <a href="http://www.Scholarships360.org">www.Scholarships360.org</a>
Virtual College Visits	<a href="#">You Visit College Tour</a> <a href="#">Princeton Review Virtual Campus Tours</a>

Grade	Alpha	Counselor Name	Email address
9-12	A-Cam (Red)	Chanell Abagi	Chanell.abagi@cfisd.net
9-12	Can-Fo (Red)	Ashley Alexander	Ashley.alexander@cfisd.net
9-12	Fp-I	Rhonda Klaus	Rhonda.klaus@cfisd.net
9-12	J-Mc	Paola Fernandez	Paola.fernandez@cfisd.net
9-12	College Academy (Red)	Tina Schutte	Tina.schutte@cfisd.net
9-12	Md-Ph (Silver)	Tiffany Simon	Tiffany.simon@cfisd.net
9-12	Pi-Se (Silver)	Dena Sarkis	Dena.sarkis@cfisd.net
9-12	S-Z (Silver)	Valerie Pierce	Valerie.pierce@cfisd.net
	College and Career Specialist	Michele Herman	Michele.herman@cfisd.net
ADMIN Red Office	Secretary	Liz Lockward	Ana.lockward@cfisd.net
ADMIN Silver Office	Secretary	Maria Munoz	Maria.munoz@cfisd.net
	Lead Counselor (Red)	Amber Bish	Amber.bish@cfisd.net

**IMPORTANT:** All information should be independently verified with the college(s) to which you're applying.

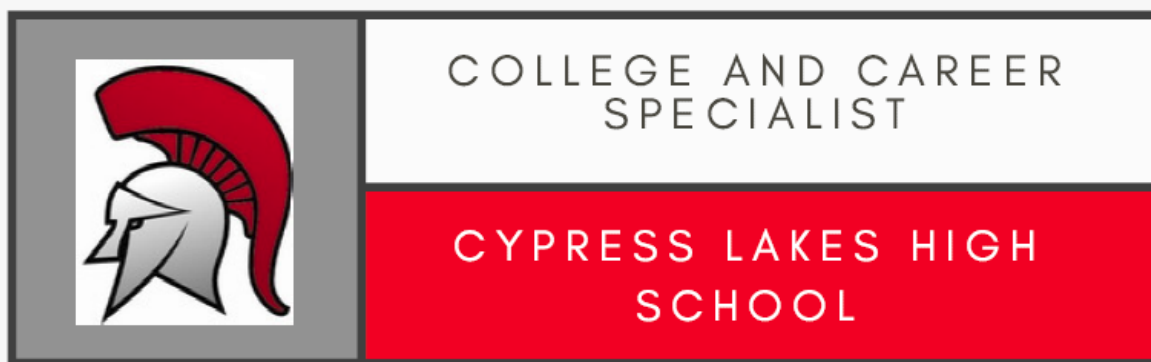
[Cypress Lakes College and Career website](#)

College Application, Dual Credit, Scholarship and Financial Aid and Grade Level Timelines

[CFISD College Knowledge website](#)

College presentations on Applications, Essays, and Expanded Resume.

[Cypress Lakes Counseling website](#)



# 9TH GRADE TO DO LIST FOR COLLEGE

## SUMMER AFTER 8TH GRADE

- [Build an awesome summer reading list](#), starting with some picks from this list of titles recommended by the Texas Library Association
- [Be careful with your social media use](#) - Any words or pictures you post are part of your permanent online record. If it's something you wouldn't want your grandparent to see, maybe don't post it.
- Volunteer with your family (with an organization that is in your field of interest, if possible), to help your community.
  - [Houston area opportunities](#)
  - [Cypress Assistance Ministries](#)
  - [Cy-Hope](#)
  - [Cy-Fair Helping Hands](#)
  - [Camp Hope](#)
  - [Operation Gratitude](#)
  - [American Heart Association](#)
  - [Olive Branch Muslim Family Organization](#)
  - [All For Good](#)
  - [Idealist](#)
  - [Volunteer Match](#)
  - [Volunteer Houston](#)
  - [Houston Sports Authority](#)
- [Uplevel your study skills](#): This is a good time to review what worked and what didn't this year, and set some intentions moving forward.
- Begin [exploring possible careers](#) - There are so many possibilities out there. What sounds interesting to you? Start with your interests and see where your research takes you.
- Are you taking a family trip this summer? Add a college visit to your itinerary. You can make an appointment for an official visit at most colleges.
- Staying in Houston? I suggest visiting and comparing your likes and dislikes about the following colleges: [University of Houston](#), [University of St. Thomas](#), [Prairie View A&M University](#). Other local colleges include University of Houston Downtown, Texas Southern University, and Houston Baptist University.

## FALL OF 9TH GRADE

- If you are enrolled in AP classes this year, [register now for your AP tests](#).
- Build healthy routines - Prioritize sleep, healthy food choices and exercise. Stronger physical health = stronger mental health, increased focus and better decision making skills.
- Focus on your grades—Your high school transcript is considered one of the most important parts of your college application, and good grades will distinguish you from many other applicants.
- Take a moment to learn about the [Texas Top 10% Rule](#).
- [Study Schedule](#) - If you don't have a plan in place, now is a great time to create one. Use a paper or online planner to stay organized and help manage your time.
- Familiarize yourself with [college terms](#)
- [College App & Admissions Timeline](#) - A timeline and set of resources that track the college search and application process from 9th through 12th grade.
- [Big 5 Personality Assessment](#) - Learn more about your strengths, challenges, and communication and learning style.

## WINTER OF 9TH GRADE

- [Could your high school grades be worth \\$100k?](#) If you're wondering whether your freshman year grades matter (yes, they do), then read this article to learn more about merit-based financial aid.
- [Feeling like you're falling behind in a class?](#) Don't be afraid to ask for help, and the sooner, the better. Check in with your teacher. Ask older students and/or peers if they might be open to tutoring. Form a study group.
- [Time management](#): Finding it hard to balance your schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and sleep? This worksheet can help assess whether you're doing too much.

- [5 Ways to Spend Your High School Summer](#): Think about your summer in the context of how your choices can help you to lead a happier life (really!).
- [Activity Log](#): Remember to update your spreadsheet at the start of each new semester.
- [Micro-scholarships](#): It's never too early to start thinking about how to pay for college. Begin building your RaiseMe profile now.
- Begin to seek out opportunities for leadership, however small. Examples include:
  1. Team captains
  2. Arts leadership (theater, band, choir, dance, orchestra)
  3. Employment (even informal employment like babysitting and lawn mowing for neighbors for pay will show responsibility and leadership)
  4. Peer tutoring
  5. Journalism (newspaper, yearbook, video news)
  6. Student government
  7. Club leadership roles
  8. Start something new - the ultimate leadership: build an app, start a club, initiate a new fundraising activity, start your own business, start your own philanthropy, create something that didn't exist before
  9. Improve on something that isn't working as well as it should - you don't have to start from scratch to show leadership. You can find a way to make a more significant impact, grow a program, or raise more funds for an existing club, fundraiser, or extracurricular pursuit.
  10. Develop your leadership skills through programs like scouts, ROTC, FFA, Interact, Key Club, and others.

## SPRING OF 9TH GRADE

- [Four-year course planner](#): Sign up for sophomore-year classes and remember that you're developing a long-term plan for the next three years. Ask your counselor about dual-enrollment opportunities with your local community college.
  1. Take college-prep courses—Take challenging courses in high school (e.g., K, Advanced Placement (AP), dual credit (DC)), focusing on the core academics: English, math, science, history, and world languages.
  2. Rigorous courses that go beyond the minimum graduation requirements will make you a more impressive applicant and can even earn you college credit while in high school!
- [Identify some summer programs you're interested in](#): Browse through options for day programs, residential programs, and online options that match an interest you'd like to pursue.
- [Build an awesome summer reading list](#):- Start with picks from this recommended list for excellent teen reads. And consider asking your teachers what their favorite reads were in high school.
- [Tips for Planning a College Visit](#): Make a commitment to visit one local college between now and the end of the school year. Learning about different types of schools will help you figure out which schools you want to spend time researching.
- Consider a virtual tour with [YouVisit](#)
- Find summer volunteer opportunities/jobs/internships—Summer is a great time to earn extra money for college while exploring different career fields.
- Begin an ongoing dialogue with your parents about how to pay for college—Start discussing ASAP, both in terms of why you want to go to college and how you're going to pay for it. That way, you and your family will be comfortable with the topic when it's crunch time in 11th and 12th grade.
- [Start saving for college](#)—Even if you can only put aside a few dollars each month, every little bit helps, and creating a college savings account makes the idea of going on to higher education much more real.
- Make sure you've nailed down some #adulting skills like [waking yourself up](#) [basic housekeeping](#)

Thank you to CollegeEssayGuy.com for creating concise month-by-month guides on which much this information is based. Thanks to Get Schooled for creating great video guides for a variety of college-related topics.