

Your Goals This Year

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"Helping parents homeschool high school"

A Year by Year Guide to Homeschooling High School

5 Stages of High School

1. Train for High School: Middle school, grades 7-8, ages 12-13
2. Think about College: Freshman, grade 9, begin at age 14-15
3. Prepare for College: Sophomore, grade 10, begin at age 15-16
4. Find a College: Junior, grade 11, begin at age 16-17
5. Apply for College: Senior, grade 12, begin age 17-18

Middle School is 7th and 8th grade, ages 12-13

- Train for High School
- Purpose for parents
 1. Learn to homeschool high school
 2. Practice record keeping
- Purpose for children
 1. Remedial work if needed.
 2. Accelerate into high school is ready
 3. Increase independence and responsibility
- It's impossible to be behind
- Beyond the basics
 1. Plan middle school and high school classes
 2. Review the college prep planning guide
 3. Learn about college financing and scholarships

Planning Guide for College Preparation	
English	4 years
Math	3-4 years
Social Studies	3-4 years
Science	3 -4 years
Foreign language	2-4 years
P.E.	2 years
Fine arts	1 year or more
Electives	As needed
Total credits: 20-24 or more	

Freshman Year is 9th Grade, begin ages 14-15

- Think about college
 1. Provide a college prep plan because teenagers can change their mind
 2. Focus on the core classes of reading, writing, math, history, and science
 3. Learn how to homeschool high school
 4. Keep high school records, including a transcript and reading list
- Beyond the basic
 1. Make a plan for foreign language
 2. Learn about high school testing
 3. Begin looking at colleges
 4. Encourage reading [The HomeScholar College Bound Reading List](#)
 5. Begin course descriptions and activity list

Sophomore Year is 10th Grade, begin ages 15-16

- Prepare for college
 1. Prepare for college: begin foreign language, and plan a rigorous courses
 2. Prepare for college admission: take the PSAT for practice in October
 3. Keep high school records including transcript, course descriptions, reading, activity list
- Beyond the basic
 1. Learn about high school tests.
 - Choose between the SAT and ACT
 - Begin formal test preparation
 - Decide on subject tests and take them if needed or helpful
 2. Research the possibility of dual enrollment in college
 3. Learn about college financing, scholarships, and the FAFSA
 4. Learn about colleges where your child may attend
 5. Write detailed and thorough course descriptions

Junior Year is 11th Grade, begin ages 16-17

- Find a college
 1. Junior year is a pivotal year with many specific tasks. Careful planning leads to great success!
 2. Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October
 3. Go to a college fair
 4. Read about colleges and compare college statistics
 5. Visit colleges in the spring
- Take college admission tests.
 1. Decide between the SAT or ACT
 2. Study for the SAT or ACT with real tests
 3. Take the SAT or ACT in the spring
 4. Take subject tests if needed in the spring
- Complete all high school records
 1. Keep great records: transcript, reading list, course descriptions, activity and awards lists
- Beyond the basic
 1. Learn key strategies to save money on college
 - Learn about the college admission process to get big scholarships
 - Emphasize test preparation, replacing other schoolwork or workbooks
 - Consider taking subject tests if needed, possibly CLEP or AP exams
 2. Teach important life skills
 3. Plan ahead for college admission by practicing essays and applications

Senior Year is 12th Grade, begin ages 17-18, graduation ages 18-20

- Apply to College
 1. Apply early and often
 2. Fill any academic gaps
 3. Repeat tests if needed
 4. Complete the FAFSA in January
 5. Finalize high school records
- Senior Year and WAY Behind
 1. Quickly learn to find a college and how to get scholarships
 2. Evaluate your progress with classes, and fill gaps with recommended courses
 3. Take the next available SAT and ACT
 4. Make an emergency transcript
 5. Apply to 4-8 colleges as soon as possible
- Beyond the basic
 1. Position student for maximum financial aid
 2. Expect 3 waves of scholarships
 1. Scholarships based on SAT or ACT plus GPA
 2. Scholarships based on FAFSA and financial need
 3. Scholarships based on merit
 3. Plan a graduation celebration

Expect Dramatic Changes during High School

- Maturity happens over time, not immediately
- Plan for college or career
- Be prepared, because teenagers change their minds
- Avoid immobilizing fear by focusing on one goal each year

Resources

For Beginners: The High School Solution: www.HighSchoolSolution.com

For Transcripts plus Course Descriptions: www.ComprehensiveRecordSolution.com

Book: [The HomeScholar Guide to College Admission and Scholarships](#)

Book: [Setting the Records Straight: How to Craft Homeschool Transcripts and Course Descriptions](#)