

## **Sophomore & Freshmen**

- **Build your academic profile**
  - This means getting good grades (C or above) and maintaining a good GPA (2.5 or above).
  - Building your profile also means engaging in extracurricular activities that show your interests, and role as an active member in your community.
  - Good attendance and behavior is a plus as well.
- **Build a course schedule that challenges you, but does not hinder you**
  - This means taking Honors, AICE, or AP courses that show you are actively challenging yourself and demonstrating your readiness for your post-secondary plans.
  - You want to challenge yourself, but not overwhelm yourself. Therefore, do not take too many of these courses if you think your grades will be affected negatively.
  - If you fail a course, take it again to gain credit and get a better grade that will help increase your GPA.
- **Extracurriculars**
  - Start engaging in extracurricular activities early on in your high school career.
  - This shows that you have interests outside of the classroom setting, and sets you apart from other applicants.
  - These activities include things that fall outside of the normal school curriculum and typically occur after school hours.
    - Ex: Football, Cheerleading, National Honor Society, Art Club, Jazz Band, etc.
  - Engage in extracurriculars that you have an actual interest in, not just what you think a college, trade school, military, or employer may like.
  - Stay involved with these extracurriculars throughout your high school career, it shows you are dedicated and have a passion that you have stuck with.
- **Volunteer/Work (Community Service and Involvement)**
  - Engaging in volunteer or community service shows your active involvement in the community, and will look good on college and job applications.
  - Scholarships, such as Bright Futures, require volunteer, work, or community service hours, so begin looking for opportunities early on.

*Bright Futures* is a Florida-based scholarship program that offers multiple scholarship opportunities to Florida students. Each scholarship has different eligibility requirements, including community service and work hours.

    - Please refer to the Florida Financial Aid website (Bright Future) for more information about the requirements for each scholarship:  
<https://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN>
  - Start accumulating community service and work hours now, so you don't have to cram them in at the last minute during your senior year.
  - Please see the community service form below. All community service forms must be approved by your guidance counselor.
  - [https://edgewaterhs.ocps.net/student\\_services/community\\_service\\_forms](https://edgewaterhs.ocps.net/student_services/community_service_forms)