

Checklist for High School

9th grade

- **Begin thinking about what you would like to do after high school**
 - **Begin volunteering and keeping track of your hours for scholarships; most colleges ask for volunteer hours. Stop by the guidance office for your volunteer form(s). Please turn in volunteer hours to Mrs. Ratliff or Ms. Clear.**
 - **The Smyth Promise Scholarship:** All graduating Smyth County Public School students are eligible for the scholarship recipient's first year. To continue funding for the student's second year, recipients must have a 2.0 GPA.
 - The Scholarship will cover five of six consecutive semesters after high school graduation. Students may begin as early as the Summer or Fall semester immediately following their graduation.
 - Recipients may enroll in degree or workforce programs.
 - Recipients are required to complete 10 hours of community service per semester at approved agencies (approved agencies will be listed, soon).
 - The SMYTH PROMISE Scholarship will be available to any high school graduate of any Smyth County public, private, or home school. Students must have been a resident of Smyth County for the last two years.
 - The required steps to complete before being considered for this grant are:
 - Apply to VHCC or WCC and complete all requirements of that application.
 - Complete the Federal Student Aid Form (FAFSA).
 - Complete VHCC or WCC's Scholarship Application (this scholarship will apply to the PROMISE Scholarship and to all other scholarships).
 - Register for Classes.
 - **Develop a passion for something that you like to do-this shows focus and commitment.**
 - **Get involved in your community and school to develop leadership skills.**
 - **Your grades count now and will affect your GPA (Grade Point Average)-freshmen grades are very important!!**
 - **Start keeping track of all your activities, honors, awards, and accomplishments**
- Tip: During your freshmen year, start an "Activities Record" notebook. Include all school and community activities, honors, awards, unique educational experiences, leadership positions, employment, and volunteer work. Update this information at least once a year. This information will be very helpful later, when you are required to list activities and honors on college and scholarship applications.
- **Remember not to post anything on Facebook, etc. that you would not want a college admissions officer or employer to see. They do check these sites.**