

Start The Year Off On the Right Foot



In the beginning.....

- Meet with your counselor to be sure you are taking the correct classes to get into college.
- Set goals. Think about which grade you want to earn in each class and what it will take to earn that grade.
- Classes will not always be easy, you will need to work hard and manage your time well to earn the good grades you will need to be accepted into the college of your choice.
- Failing a class is not an option, even if you do not like the teacher. This WILL hurt you (not the teacher) in the future.
- Remember, high schools students are expected to be mature and responsible- Act like it!
- HAVE FUN!!! Get involved in extra-curricular activities.

Talk to your counselor....

- Know how many credits you need and in which areas to advance to the next grade and to graduate.
- Know which tests you need to pass before graduation.
- Know your grade point average (GPA) and keep it as high as possible.
- Know the attendance (and tardy) policy at your school and follow it! Attendance records are very important to colleges and employers.
- Know your school rules – especially if you are involved in extra-curricular activities.

Earn good grades...

- Be organized- Use a binder!
- Manage your time well- use extra class time to get your work done or study for another class.
- Pay attention in class and take notes that you will understand later. Keep up with the readings in your text and review notes daily.
- Study each day- you will be surprised how much you will remember with only 10 minutes of study per class each night. Do not cram!

Have fun...

- Be kind to your classmates. Do not be afraid to meet people who are different from you.
- Join a club or a sport. Think about what you enjoy doing and get involved.
- Help out with school functions (dances, plays, concerts, sporting events, spirit week).
- Make good, healthy decisions in and out of school.
- RELAX! What do you do to release stress (watch TV, read a book, talk to friends...) Whatever it is- do it often.
- Stay positive! High school is what YOU make it. It can be fun or not, it will depend on your attitude.

Remember....

- What you do now counts. Make sure you are doing your best and working hard, a low beginning GPA is not easy to raise.
- Think about your future now and plan how you will get there.
- You EARN grades, they are not given.
- Ask for help if you need it. Your teachers and counselors are there to help, make them work for that paycheck ;)
- Have fun and get involved, colleges want students who participate.

Apply This Information....

- Your stipend assignment is the following:
 1. Write down five strategies that you could try to improve your high school experience this year.
 2. Do each of the five things on your list.
 3. Write a paragraph for EACH of the five strategies explaining 1.) Why you chose it 2.) How you tried to incorporate it into your life and 3.) What was the result?
 4. Email your paper to Julie at: jbowerma@nmu.edu before October 31 if you want to receive your October stipend.