

# TIPS AND TRICKS

## Freshman Year Guide

- **Freshman Year**

- Freshman year is the foundation for the rest of high school. It's when you adjust, explore, and build habits that will set you up for college, careers, and beyond. Make the most out of it!!

- **Academics**

- Focus on classes: Freshman grades set up the base of your GPA, playing an important role in future opportunities (including college and scholarships)
- Find study habits now: Whether that's making flashcards on Quizlet, utilizing Cornell notes, or teaching the material out loud, make sure to experiment to see what works best for you
- Ask for help: Use office hours, tutoring, or your own classmates for help; don't be scared and take the initiative to make your learning easier

- **Extracurriculars:**

- Join a variety of clubs/teams: This is your time to explore. Try sports, STEM, art, debate, politics, business, or service clubs, because you will never know what you may end up liking
- Find a good list to commit to: Towards the end of the year, cut out any of the clubs that didn't stick out to you, and choose the ones you can see yourself growing in, as well as making an impact on
- Go to events: Whether that's freshman orientation, club fairs, or guest speaker events, this will allow you to learn more about school while tightening your bond with the community

- **Organize and Time Management:**

- Start using a planner early: It can be either physical or digital, but it will allow you to keep all your homework, tests, and long-term projects on track
- Balance: Don't overload yourself with too many APs and honors along with multiple clubs; see what works for you, your health, and your schedule when making those decisions
- **Planning Ahead:**
  - Start thinking about where your interests lie
    - You don't have to have a definitive interest at the moment, but curiosity is extremely important when it comes to your future
    - Ask yourself: Do I learn more towards arts, education, business, STEM, or politics?
  - Keep track of your achievements: Save awards, volunteer hours, and activities in a document to reference it back in the future
  - Get involved outside of school: Volunteer, online programs, and part-time jobs can strengthen your resume while also getting more experience
- **Planning Ahead:**
  - Don't Compare: Everyone grows at different speeds, focus more on your own progress
  - Embrace Failure: Learn from your mistakes to adapt to bounce back
  - Enjoy High School: This is a new chapter of your life, have fun with it