



Tips for Students

We asked our group of high school seniors to tell us what they wish someone would have told them as they were starting high school.

"Get each semester off to a good start. I have this habit of not working very hard at the beginning of the semester. Then I have to work like crazy to bring my grades up. This semester, I got off to a good start in all of my classes. My grades are a lot better, and I'm not all stressed out about having to bring my grades up." Tamika

"Don't get caught up in the social scene, and don't worry about being part of the 'in' crowd. Choose friends who have similar interests and who you can be yourself with." Courtney

"Choose your courses carefully and don't wait until your senior year to think about what you're going to do after you graduate." Antonio

"Think about the consequences of what you're doing. My sophomore year, I got caught drinking a beer during football season and I wasn't allowed to practice or play for two weeks. I felt like I let my team down, and it killed me to just watch the games and not be able to play." John

"Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. I'm not good at math and last year I struggled the whole year. This year I have a tutor and I'm getting a B in math." J.D.

"Get involved. I've had a lot more fun during my junior and senior years because I've gotten involved in activities. I wish I would have been more involved earlier." Jamal

"Don't slack. Remember your GPA!" Sara

"Don't wish your high school years away, it goes really fast. Enjoy it." Tonya



Tips for Parents

High school students are old enough to make many of their own decisions, but they still need their parents to provide guidance and set limits. The tips below will help parents guide and advise their children as they go through high school.

1. At the beginning of each term, sit down with your son or daughter and together set realistic academic goals for that term.
2. Encourage your child to be involved in extracurricular activities. Show your support by attending performances, games, etc.
3. Make sure that your child understands that he/she is expected to be in school, on time, every day.
4. Attend all open houses and parent conferences.
5. Write down the dates that interim reports and report cards come out, and expect your child to bring them home. If you don't see an interim report or report card, call the school and request a copy.
6. Realize that it's your child's responsibility to be in school every day, to follow the school rules, to get homework done, and to prepare for tests.
7. Work together with the school. If you have a question or concern about a class, make a phone call or send an e-mail to the teacher. For other concerns, contact your child's counselor or principal.
8. Make sure that your son or daughter is not spending too much time on the phone, playing video games, watching TV, instant messaging, etc. Also make sure that a job doesn't interfere with school.
9. Talk to your child about what's happening in school and be a good listener.