Grade 9 College Planning Checklist

☐ **Talk** to your counselor about your college plans, and review your schedule to be sure you are enrolled in the necessary college-preparatory courses. Colleges prefer four years of English, history, math, science and a foreign language. Create a Four-year High School Plan.

☐ **Set** up a file of important notes and records including report cards, awards and honors, school and community activities, volunteer work, and leadership positions.

☐ **Set** up an account on the California Career Center so you can use this resource to your fullest advantage for career and college planning.

☐ **Get** involved in extra-curricular and community service activities. Colleges look for students who are involved, who have a highly developed talent or skill, and who have worked on their leadership skills.

☐ **Freshman** grades count! Strive for academic excellence and get tutoring if you need it.

☐ **Learn** how to calculate your Grade Point Average (GPA)

☐ **Use** the California Career Zone to start exploring careers and the college majors related to them.

☐ **Begin** researching possible colleges. The California Career Zone has information about all the colleges in California and the nation.

☐ **Take** the PSAT/NMSQT®, offered in October. Ask your counselor for specific dates the test is conducted in your area. The test is administered through the College Board. Not only is it a good precursor to the SAT®, your PSAT® scores may qualify you for a National Merit Scholarship.

☐ **Research** information on colleges and universities you are considering. Explore their websites and check on their entrance requirements.

☐ **Check** with your counselor about AP® courses and university summer school programs for high school students. Take on a summer job, internship or service project.

**Notes:**