Sophomore Year Checklist

**FALL**

* Polish study skills. Colleges and future employers look at high school transcripts and are impressed with regular attendance and improving grades.
* Take a career interest inventory if you have not already.
* Students should take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude test (PSAT) - the preliminary version of the SAT - and the PLAN, the preliminary version of the ACT. Taking the PSAT now is practice for the PSAT test in junior year which allows you to be considered for a National Merit Scholarship. Find dates and more information about the PSAT from your high school’s guidance office.
* Surf the Web to check out colleges, technical schools and apprenticeship opportunities.
* Begin or continue job shadowing.
* Start attending college fairs in the area.
* Start a college savings account and regularly deposit into it.
* Join clubs, play sports, explore the arts and volunteer — great ways to expand your career interests and prepare for future scholarship opportunities and consider running or applying for a leadership position.
* Remember to keep a list of your involvement as well as any awards or recognitions you receive in your career and course planner. (Update Academic Resume)

**SPRING**

* Begin exploring financial aid and scholarships options.
* Use the Internet to explore different careers.
* Select five to ten colleges to contact for brochures and applications.
* Arrange for a visit to the Elkhart Career Center.
* Plan a productive summer. The summer before 11th grade is a good time to have a part-time job to prepare for a future career.
* Choose a summer camp and find volunteer service programs. Scholarship committees are looking for community service participation.
* Sign up for the most challenging classes for next year.
* Start to attend events on college campuses. Most host sophomore days. Check various college websites.
* Bookmark [www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://learnmoreindiana.org/) and add 1-800-992-2076 to speed dial. You can turn to Learn More Indiana for answers on how to get to college.
* Remember to keep a list of your involvement as well as any awards or recognitions you receive in your career and course planner. (Update Academic Resume)