

## **The Ninth Year**

Freshmen courses, grades, and credits all become part of the student's transcripts. In addition, freshman activities, honors, and awards can all be listed on postsecondary and scholarship applications.

- Build strong academic, language, mathematics and critical thinking skills by taking challenging courses.
- Study nightly and stay focused. It is critical that you establish good study habits from the beginning. Work hard to get your GPA as high as you are able.
- Establish a good attendance record.
- Sometime during the year, make an appointment with your counselor just to meet him/her and let him/her get to know you.
- Seek advice and input from advisor, counselor, teachers, and parents but don't depend on anyone to make sure you are in the right course. Take personal responsibility for knowing what the requirements are and making sure you are in the right course.
- If you are struggling regarding any issue or problem, seek help!
- Stay balanced! Get involved in a couple of activities. Depth of involvement in any one activity (e.g., four years in band, soccer, art club) is important because it shows focus and commitment.
- Start a portfolio of your high school activities, honors, awards, leadership positions, employment, volunteer work, community activities, etc. Keep a list and include everything! If you have a home computer, start an "Activities and Awards" file and update it once a year.
- During the ninth grade year, attend Ninth Grade Advisement with your parents. At this time you will complete the four-year plan, assess the appropriateness of your curriculum choices, and much more.
- Keep copies of all report cards, transcripts, registration forms, etc.