


# NACP Dolphin Alumni Network

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Check List



### *Fall (September – December)*

- Make sure you have your 'College Bound' Folder organized!
- Complete the 'Free and Reduced Lunch form EVERY year
- Update or open your profile on the [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)
- Sign up for Hispanic Scholarship Fund ([www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net)) if you qualify
- Sign up for scholarship search engines like: freetestprep.com
  - Fastweb.com - [www.zinch.com](http://www.zinch.com) - [www.scholarships360.org](http://www.scholarships360.org)
  - Freetestprep.com (to prepare for the vocabulary on the PSAT test)
  
- Run for a political office within student council or a club if you would like to.
- Review the Scholarship List and choose to apply to 3 scholarships.
- Make an appointment to visit your counselor and introduce yourself;
  - **Ask**, "I am very interested in getting ready for college as soon as possible. May I get information about advanced classes, clubs or programs that will help me reach my goal? Is there an Avid Program?"
  - **Ask**: Are you aware of any scholarships available to middle school students?
  - **Ask** your teachers and counselors about the state tests you will take this year. Learn ways to practice and plan for these tests so you feel confident and prepared.
  - **Ask** about the high performing high schools in the area and the processes to applying. How many AP classes do they offer? Do they offer tours? What is their API score?
  
- ***During Thanksgiving Break Thinking Session***
  - Think about starting something, like a business, a club or a volunteer group that you can lead. What are your interests?
  - Work on scholarships with an advisor

### *Winter Break*

- Complete your research of the local high schools that you would like to attend and review their admissions policy.
- Continue working on 3 or more scholarships during the winter break
- Apply to the simple short essay scholarships (check the scholarship list)
- Meet with your advisor to review your essays and applications

### *Winter (January – March)*

- Continue to be active in clubs and **really try** to acquire leadership positions this year if possible.
- Update your Resume of Activities: Track any and all volunteer hours and activities you have been doing throughout middle school

### *Spring*

- Select two people to write letters of recommendation for you or update the ones you already received. These should be people you have worked closely with (a club advisor, teacher who you have helped often, dean of students that knows you, etc). You can ask them to write it 2 months before school ends. Adjust the letter of recommendation request (found on NACP's Alumni Corner webpage) to fit your needs.
- Start getting your summer activities figured out. You should be either volunteering somewhere, doing a camp, starting a mini business, or other productive activities.

### *Spring Break*

- Work on scholarships that are available to middle school students. Read! Rest!
- Do you know what you want to be when you get older? Visit [www.mynextmove.org](http://www.mynextmove.org) to learn about different careers.

### *Spring (May - June)*

- Visit your counselor and review your academic progress. Ask for the process to receive an official copy of your complete middle school transcript and GPA. Confirm that your 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes are challenging and will keep you on track for your collegiate goals.
- Check to see if your selected high school has a ninth grade orientation or summer program.

### *Summer*

- Take a week off and REST!
- Visit FreeTestPrep.com to quiz yourself on math and PSAT words
- Set a goal to prepare 3-4 scholarship applications to send out.
- Review learned material to get ready for your next year.
- Your education is priority at school. If you need help, SPEAK UP and ask your teachers for extra help.
- Learn about extra tutoring, study groups or create a study group with **focused** friends to stay on top of your academics.

- Be aware of college fairs field trips with Alumni 360

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