

## YEARLY EXPECTATIONS

Each year builds on the previous one.

### FRESHMEN YEAR: A YEAR OF ADJUSTMENTS

Getting use to several teachers.

Adjusting to the **work** load.

Different procedures, and expectations.

They **need** you to be involved. In many ways they are **still** children, and they need you **to, at times**, treat them like children. **Consistent** directions, **check** on grades, **ask** to see their work, **set** a place for homework and a time for homework --**hold them** accountable. Make **family** activities of **major** importance and maintain family **traditions**. Do NOT bow to the tyranny of the "social life of a teenager." They are only freshmen!

DON'T BE AFRAID TO SAY NO.

### THINGS TO DO THIS YEAR:

>>Take the PLAN test in October

>>Keep grades up. Every little bit will help later.

>>Go to [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/myfsa](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/myfsa) to explore careers

>> [www.ed.gov/parents](http://www.ed.gov/parents) has parent information

### SOPHOMORE YEARS -- A YEAR OF PREPARATION

This is the year to start **letting** go of homework. **Start** making them **responsible** by putting more time between checks. Let them know that if they **falter**, then you will **increase** your supervision. Maybe the grades could be tied to freedoms given. Someone who is not keeping up on the homework should not be given the same freedoms as those whose work is always done. Keep before them the need to focus on their schoolwork. \* \* \* \* \* **School is their job.**

### THINGS TO DO THIS YEAR:

>>>Take the PLAN in October

>>>First year grades are used for Cal-grant

>>>Continue to search for college and career info.

>>>[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) have testing info.

>>>Above sites also have practice test questions.

>>>Search colleges to know what classes you will need

### JUNIOR YEAR -- A YEAR OF SEARCHING

Help them to **search** career, occupations, and colleges. **Increase** the expectations that chores, homework and family activity be done **without coercion**. Remember they are still children. Help them to do what is **right**, whether or not they agree. Momentarily they may fuss, but someday they will understand. **Don't** be afraid to take the **keys**.

**If** they work part-time, help them to find a **balance** so they do not lose out of the last few years of childhood.

Generally, this is a heavy academic year.

#### THINGS TO DO THIS YEAR:

- >>>>Take the PSAT in October.
- >>>>Take the **SAT** (college) or **ACT** test in the Spring.
- >>>>Use the above web sites to search for colleges, etc.
- >>>>Use [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) to search for scholarships.
- >>>>In the summer, use [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov) to learn what you might receive in aid.
- >>>>Visit colleges and know entry requirements!!
- >>>>Take solid classes and know where you stand regarding graduation requirements.
- >>>>Look for community service opportunities.

#### SENIOR YEAR -- YEAR OF DECISION

This is the year to input life skills -- less direct structure on homework, but more direction to keep them focused. School must be held as the main job. Don't let work or social stuff cause them to miss out on the adventure of their senior year. (Work sometimes causes the student to become disconnected from their class and school activities. This is something they will regret later.

Help them **finalize** post high school plans, but **don't** do **everything** for them. The final choice should be theirs. **Colleges** want to **talk** to them.

#### THINGS TO DO THIS YEAR:

- >>>>>Take the **SAT** or **ACT** in Sept/Oct. if needed.
- >>>>>KNOW when the application **deadlines** are!!!
- >>>>>Visit colleges in the fall.
- >>>>>Work hard ALL year.
- >>>>>Stay involved.
- >>>>>Send applications.
- >>>>>File FAFSA after January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- >>>>>Apply for Cal-grant before March 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Other Stuff

1. You need a Senior Photo for the yearbook.
2. Parents are you buying a senior ad?
3. Work on the Senior Portfolio.

BACK TO SCHOOL < AUGUST 26, 2010 >  
PREPARING FOR COLLEGE IS MORE THAN GRADES

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

### I. AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY

In our hands we hold an awesome responsibility. Over the next four years your freshmen will move from the children they are today to the young people they are becoming. By the end of the senior year, you will see the young adult emerge.

Who will they be?

What will they be like?

Will they be prepared?

Have we done all we could do to equip them?

This is why our partnership is so important. We strive to create an atmosphere that is conducive to their growth: mentally, emotionally, socially, and physically.

### II. SET THE TONE -- THE VISION -- THE HOPE -- THE DREAM SEEK THE HIGHER ROAD

College plans start with you, the parents. Encourage your student to attend college for at least a year. Your **attitude** will actually be the **determining factor** in your student's plans. Please, encourage them to consider a four-year school, so they will plan and work toward that end. If you push for the Junior college only, then they will back off and take the easier road. Challenge them to be more than they see themselves being, help them to know that in Christ they can do all things.

**DON'T SET THE STANDARD TOO LOW.**

### III. TEACH THEM LIFE SKILLS -- THE REAL VALUE OF MONEY -- HARD WORK ---THAT THE REAL VALUE OF LIFE IS HOW YOU SPEND YOUR TIME AND NOT JUST YOUR MONEY.

Let your student learn the cost of real life. Let them see the P.G.E. bill, the gas bill, and show them the interest you pay on credit cards. Take them to the grocery store with you. Show them the cost of the special items they always want. Maybe give them an allowance that they have to save to buy that CD or game; that way they have to make the choice to spend their money. (To spend **your** money calls for no choice at all on their part.)

**DON'T SEND THEM INTO THE WORLD WITH FALSE EXPECTATIONS.**

### III. TEACH THEM TO BE RESPONSIBLE -- TO STAND ON THEIR OWN TWO FEET -- TEACH THEM TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES. TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ABILITY TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.

For Freshmen parents, plan a strategy to help your young person learn to be responsible for actions, and grades. And parents, don't forget the simple chores of life: Teach them to do their wash -- check the oil in the car ---- change a tire --- vacuum the floor (change the belt on a vacuum) -- prepare a basic meal more than boil water or use the microwave --- sew on a button -- or how to use a safety pin and hide it out of sight.

Remember back to the days you were faced with a basic task, and didn't know how to do it. Send them out prepared with knowledge, able to think and act appropriately.