

# College Planning

## Sophomore Year

What should YOU be doing your sophomore year?

By the time students become sophomores at Orangeburg Prep they should have successfully maneuvered the transition into high school. Sophomores should be ready to focus on enhancing their academic opportunities, accepting responsibility for personal academic success, and seeking opportunities for involvement in the larger life of the school through extra-curricular activities.

In addition, every sophomore should:

- ? Take challenging courses and do well in those courses. As colleges consider an applicant, nothing takes the place of strong academic achievement in a rigorous curriculum.
- ? If your freshman year was less than stellar, make up your mind to improve. Colleges are willing to overlook a poor start IF a student shows sustained improvement over the next three years.
- ? If your freshman year was a strong one, keep up the good work. Colleges expect you to maintain effort and focus. A downward spiral will hurt your chance of admission.
- ? READ, READ, READ and take advantage of the writing opportunities in various courses. The SAT emphasizes *critical reading* and has a *writing* section.
- ? Practice good study skills, time management, and organization.
  - ? Use an assignment book daily
  - ? Review nightly the material covered in your classes (even when no homework has been assigned.
  - ? Schedule work and study time
  - ? Organize your study materials (notes/handouts/etc.)
- ? Get to know your teachers, and let them get to know you.
- ? If needed, show initiative by asking your teacher/s for extra help in needed areas.
- ? Get involved outside the classroom (athletics, fine arts, special interest clubs, student government, service projects, etc.) Sophomores should begin to focus on the activities that have become most meaningful to them. Explore leadership roles in areas of involvement!
- ? Peruse websites of colleges that interest you; take note of the many possible majors, entrance requirements, and other details of each college
- ? Have questions? Come to your Academic Advisor in Guidance!