



**RISING
SCHOLARS
PROGRAM**

KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY

STARK

9th Grade College Planning Checklist

- Grades count! Do your absolute best in every class. The higher your GPA, the better your chances of getting into college and receiving scholarships.
- Identify your source(s) of personal, internal, and external motivation that pushes you to do your best, manage or overcome life's challenges/adversity.
- Work with your counselor to plan out your coursework. Learn about the admissions requirements for colleges you are interested in to make wise decisions in your course planning.
- Talk to your counselor now about programs that allow you to earn college credit while in high school.
- Consider College Credit Plus (CCP) Program that allows you to earn college credit while in high school. Talk to a counselor to learn more about these options and opportunities at your school. For more info, visit <https://www.kent.edu/stark/college-credit-plus> or email us at ksustarkccp@kent.edu, and we will respond to your question promptly.
- Read whenever and whatever you can—books, magazines, newspapers. Try to read about 30 minutes a day outside of school work.
- Use computer technology to help with your classwork and take advantage of all the information available on the Internet to keep you up to date on the world around you.
- Participate in summer academic enrichment activities. Be determined to improve your study habits.
- Use a planner/planner app for school assignments and important deadlines.
- Explore extracurricular activities such as school clubs, student government, sports, church programs, and volunteer opportunities in your community. Your life outside of school is essential to colleges and improves your chances of receiving a scholarship.
- Research the subjects and careers you're interested in. Set future goals and learn about the things you need to begin working on to achieve these goals.



- Meet with your school counselor to talk about and begin planning for your future.
- Get and keep a college binder. Update your lists of careers, activities, and subjects that interest you as they change and grow. Add a list of colleges and majors that interest you.
- Ask your school counselor about all graduation requirements, required community service, special projects, internship opportunities, and keep track of these hours in your college binder.
- Start and keep saving for college. Get a summer job/do odd jobs and put half of what you earn in your college fund. Save for items such as transportation (car), everyday living expenses, books, and fees. (Please note that your Rising Scholars Tuition-Free Scholarship covers tuition only.)
- Seek the advice of your teachers and counselors about your college and career interests. Find people who have careers that interest you and ask to job shadow them for a day.
- Attend the **Rising Scholars Summer Institute** the summer going into your Sophomore year of high school. Attend other college workshops (in person or virtually) with your family to learn more about getting ready for college and how to make the most of your high school years.

This document provides a suggested checklist and action steps for freshman participants to be on track to access your Tuition-Free Scholarship Opportunity at KSU Stark.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Mr. Sanders.

Lester Sanders

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