Beyond HCA - What should I do now?

FRESHMAN YEAR

High school offers many opportunities and experiences as you begin to consider your future and the possibilities that lie beyond HCA. Your freshman year is just as important as your senior year in laying a solid foundation for your future. You are more likely to accomplish your goals for high school and beyond if you have a plan.

Almost every website and book has its own version of what you should be doing at each grade level. This is not an exhaustive list, but it will provide some sense of what you should focus on this year. For more detailed information and extensive lists, please view Helpful Websites/Resources.

Most Important Things
- Don’t stress about college yet, but do create a four-year high school plan.
- Pick courses wisely. Take the hardest ones you can handle.
- Apply yourself diligently – do your best.
- Get involved in things that interest you – both in and out of school.
- If there are new things you want to try (e.g., a new sport), this is a great time to do it.
- Begin to pay special attention to discovering what coursework and extracurricular activities interest you most and where you are strongest.

Things to Understand
- Colleges will see all the courses you take from this point forward. They will also see each semester’s GPA and your cumulative GPA.
- Just meeting the minimum graduation requirements for Hebron is not necessarily enough to satisfy college entrance requirements.
- The most important thing that colleges will look at is how well you did in your high school academic work, and whether you showed initiative in taking advantage of the academic opportunities offered there.

HCA Milestones to Complete
- Initial Registration and Sign On to GAcadlege411
- PSAT (offered in October each year through the school)
- Spiritual Gifts Survey
- 4 year high school plan

Terms to Know
- **GPA** – Grade Point Average. Hebron uses a 4.0 system. Each grade (A, B, C, etc.) has a corresponding numerical value. Your GPA is determined by all your grades divided by the number of credits. A 4.0 GPA means that you received an A in every class.
- ** Transcript** – Your academic record. This is a list of all courses and grades from 9th grade on. Official copies are signed and embossed by the Registrar, and are required to be sent with college applications.
- **Resume** – This is a list of activities, awards, honors – things you have been involved in outside of the classroom. They can be formal activities or significant projects that you have done on your own. A resume is submitted as part of your college application. You do not need a long list. In most cases, you should not list everything you have done. An activity done one or two times is not of interest to a college admissions office. Consistent interest and leadership, once you have discovered what you really enjoy, matter most.