Beyond HCA - What should I do now?

SOPHOMORE YEAR

Your sophomore year is important as you build on the momentum of your freshman year. Though it is relatively early in your high school career, now is the time to start thinking about college and career interests.

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
- Pick courses wisely. Next year’s courses involve important decisions – continuing with a foreign language, AP courses, etc.
- Continue to apply yourself diligently – do your best.
- Stay involved in things and look for opportunities to begin moving into leadership.
- Find an organizational system that works for you in which to begin accumulating information related to the college search – standardized test scores, scholarship info, colleges that catch your eye for some reason.

Things to Understand
- Not taking a subject, e.g. foreign language or science, will limit your options later on. The most selective schools are going to want 4 years of everything.
- Trends in grades matter. If you have had a bad start to your high school grades, an upward trend as you continue will make a big difference. The opposite is also true – a downward trend is hard to overcome on college applications.

This Year You Should
- Take the PSAT in October. This is a “practice” SAT. Colleges do not see these scores, but they are still important for other things.
- Get much more familiar with GAcollege411.
- Update your resume.

HCA Milestones to Complete
- PSAT
- Resume
- Game Plan Survey
- Start college list