



COLLEGE PLANNING

10TH GRADE

At SPIRE Academy, we provide guidance to help students and parents make the most of this year. These tips emphasize the importance of maintaining strong academic habits, exploring interests and starting the college search process. For students, focusing on GPA, building relationships with educators and engaging in community activities are key steps. For parents, fostering independence, discussing college costs and encouraging extracurricular involvement are essential. Use these resources to stay proactive and organized. Remember, your SPIRE College Counselor is here to support and assist you along the way.

SOPHOMORE YEAR – 10TH GRADE

TIPS FOR STUDENTS

- › Maintain study habits, work and sleep schedules.
- › Take PSAT if offered at your school. The PSAT is a great way to strengthen your test taking skills and helps you identify your strengths and weaknesses in certain areas.
- › Use this time to explore different subjects and activities. Figure out what you're passionate about and what you might want to study in college.
- › Maintain a Strong GPA: Your GPA is important for college admissions. Focus on your grades and strive for academic excellence.
- › Volunteer: Colleges like to see well-rounded applicants who are involved in their communities.
- › Begin researching different colleges and universities to get an idea of what you're looking for in a school. Consider factors like location, size, majors offered and campus culture.
- › Build relationships with your coaches, teachers and counselors so they can speak to your strengths and abilities. Strong letters of recommendation can make a difference in college admissions.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- › Promote Independence: Foster independence by encouraging your child to take ownership of their education. Teach them important skills like time management, organization and problem-solving so they can succeed both in high school and beyond.
- › College Budget: Begin discussing college costs and financial planning with your child. Explore different options for saving for college, such as 529 savings plans, and discuss the importance of scholarships and financial aid.
- › Encourage your student athlete child to get involved in activities that interest them. Support their participation in clubs, leadership opportunities, community service or part-time jobs, as these experiences can help strengthen their college applications.
- › Taking a family vacation? This is a great opportunity to plan a college visit together so your child can get a feel for different schools and envision themselves as college students.