

Steps to Your Future



East Grand Rapids High School
Guidance Department
2211 Lake Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616-235-7594

East Grand Rapids High School

Freshman Year

Transition – Building a Solid Foundation

- ❖ Settle in to the routine of high school
- ❖ Use Google calendar, a planner or your own method of keeping organized!
- ❖ Join a club, sport or get involved in the arts
- ❖ Do your best in strong academic courses – balance with new experiences and activities
- ❖ Commit to volunteer projects
- ❖ Use Family Connection to do the *Do What You Are* survey to explore your interests and see how you learn using the *Learning Style Preferences* tool
- ❖ Take inventory of yourself – what subjects do you like? What do you enjoy doing outside of school? What things would you like to get involved in?
- ❖ Explore future options. Talk to people about their careers. Talk to older students who are in college. Ask them what they would have done differently
- ❖ Visit nearby college campuses for drama productions, concerts or sporting events or as part of a family vacation
- ❖ Have at least one serious talk with your parents about your future, your plans, and what expectations they have for you
- ❖ Stop in the Guidance Office – check out Mrs. Allaben’s candy dish!

TRANSITION

East Grand Rapids High School

Sophomore Year

Exploration – Learning about Yourself

- ❖ Keep your future options open by being successful in solid academic courses
- ❖ Take the PSAT/NMSQT test in October – as a practice
- ❖ Continue your involvement in clubs, theater, music, sports or volunteer activities – do something you love!
- ❖ Use Family Connection's *Strengths Explorer* tool to learn more about your strengths
- ❖ Check out the *Cluster Finder* in Family connection to explore possible careers – explore a few in depth
- ❖ Use Family Connection's *College Search* tool to research admission requirements for some colleges you are interested in attending
- ❖ Attend the West Michigan National College Fair in the spring
- ❖ Consider visiting KCTC to research your programs in Culinary Arts, Health Care, Auto Technology and many others!
- ❖ Check out college/major resources in the Guidance Office.
- ❖ Continue talking to your parents about college and financing a college education

explore. discover. dream.

East Grand Rapids High School

Junior Year

Choices – Considering your Options

- ❖ Keep your options open by continuing to work hard in solid academic courses
- ❖ Visit with college representatives who come to East
- ❖ Attend local College Night program in the fall
- ❖ Take the PSAT/NMSQT test in October
- ❖ Attend the College Planning Night for Juniors
- ❖ Complete the junior surveys in Family Connection for your Junior Conference
- ❖ Follow up junior conference by developing a long list of colleges to investigate
- ❖ Use Family Connection to complete the *Career Profiler*, *Super Match* college search, *College Match* and/or *College Compare* to research options
- ❖ Attend West Michigan National College Fair in the spring
- ❖ Plan college visits during winter break, spring break and/or summer
- ❖ Prepare for PSAT and SAT using resources on www.khanacademy.org/sat
- ❖ Prepare for ACT using resources on www.actstudent.org or enroll in a test prep course
- ❖ Register for ACT and SAT tests
- ❖ Look for posters and announcements about future college information sessions and representative visits to East – sign up in the Guidance Office.



East Grand Rapids High School

Senior Year

Commitment – Taking Action to Reach your Goals

- ❖ Enroll in solid academic course load - check credits for graduation
- ❖ Contact teachers in person about requests for letters of recommendation – enter in Family Connection
- ❖ Narrow your long list of colleges to those to which you will apply
- ❖ Submit applications in advance of deadlines - use Common Application or the college's electronic version of their application
- ❖ Enter applications into Family Connection under *Colleges I am Applying to*
- ❖ Visit with college representatives who come to East
- ❖ Visit Colleges whenever possible - try to attend a class or two!
- ❖ Attend Financial Aid Information Night in December
- ❖ Research scholarship opportunities
- ❖ Share your admission decisions with your counselor – update status in Family Connection
- ❖ Meet May 1 Candidate's Reply Date for notifying college of your choice that you will attend
- ❖ Finish your senior year with the same commitment you have shown in previous years
- ❖ Complete *Graduation Survey* in Family Connection

