

10th Grade

With one year of high school under their belt, your child should have started exploring interests and opportunities to gain exposure to college and career options. Continue this exploration to help guide decisions and planning for college. At this point, the below suggestions are increasingly important to ensure your child has the information they need to make thoughtful and deliberate choices for college and beyond.

- Utilize your child's high school academic plan to choose courses wisely.
 - Select the most appropriate and challenging academic courses
 - Incorporate electives that allow student to explore different fields of study
- Take care to work diligently in courses. Grades on the transcript matter.
- Encourage your child to set goals and track their own progress. Continue to ask for updates on their progress and celebrate with them.
- Your child should be fully responsible for creating and following a calendar and/or time management system. The development of time management skills will be crucial for success now, in college, and in career.
- Empower your child to take ownership of all their own communication.
- Your child should be involved in extracurricular activities. This continues to be a great time to explore offerings to identify interests and engage in our school community.
- Read! Read! Read! It remains one of the most important ways to prepare for college. In fact, studies show that it's one of the most effective ways to increase standardized testing scores.
- Volunteer! Continue serving in your community and updating your service hours in x2VOL (<https://www.x2vol.com/login.html>)
- Maintain a list of their accomplishments with dates. For example, awards received, extracurricular involvement, honors societies.
- Visit nearby colleges. If your family travels, visit colleges in those cities. The more your child is exposed to college and different campuses, the more excited they will become. As you arrange visits, choose a variety of colleges and universities to ensure there is diversity in your scheduled visits (size of school, private/public, Christian/secular, big city/small town, etc.).
- After a college visit, talk to your child to discuss the experience and note their preferences. Understanding their preferences will help tremendously as they begin to make their college list.
- Continue building the list of colleges that your child is interested in and add these schools to their SCOIR account.
- Begin to explore college programs, majors available, and potential career options based on student interests.
- Start exploring financial aid and scholarship options.
- Start preparing for the SAT and/or ACT. Consider enrolling in the Spring course at Orangewood for SAT/ACT Preparation.

To partner with what you are doing at home, Orangewood will encourage your child to think deeply, challenge them academically, and come alongside your family to prepare your child for college. Here is what you can expect from our Academic and College Advising program for your tenth-grade student.

- Sophomore seminars through Bible and/or English classes to include:
 - academic advising and planning
 - test preparation
 - career exploration
 - college preferences
- On-campus PSAT testing
- Utilize PSAT scores to inform necessary SAT preparation
- Individual academic planning meeting with the Academic and College Advisor in the Spring
- Opportunities to learn about colleges:
 - college fairs
 - on-campus and virtual college visits