

# THE BANFF SCHOOL

## College Planning Checklist: Freshman Year

- ✓ Plan your high school courses. When you have a choice, choose challenging courses, but be realistic in your goals! Become familiar with the state of Texas graduation requirements and the differences in the degree plans.
- ✓ Study, study, study!!! Your grades now affect your college opportunities!!!
- ✓ Think about your possible college major (subject/career you wish to study and excel in). Research the kinds of classes that will best prepare you for majors in which you are interested.
- ✓ Begin research of colleges you may be interested in. Find schools that offer the majors in which you are interested. Also consider how close to/far from home you wish to be, what size school appeals to you, what environment appeals to you, and what the costs to attend would be.
- ✓ Become familiar with college entrance requirements. Find the academic requirements for admission into your chosen schools so that you can realistically set your goals, academically and otherwise. Take the PSAT. We will administer the PSAT (a preliminary/practice college admissions test) at Banff in October. This is a great opportunity for you to experience the exam with no pressure and to get a baseline indication of your performance.
- ✓ Participate in extracurricular activities. Grades are important, but colleges also want students who are well-rounded! Get involved with your school and your community. Don't join club and team if you can't give real commitment to them all; focus on spending real effort and leadership in fewer activities.
- ✓ Find community service activities. Volunteer your time and efforts in community service. The Banff School requires a minimum of 20 hours per school year. Remember, community service is your time and effort given to help a non-profit organization.
- ✓ Plan summer activities that will help you achieve your goals. Attend summer camps/sports camps/educational programs sponsored by colleges or organizations; gain experience through jobs/internships.
- ✓ Begin a spreadsheet or résumé to record all activities and the time you spend on them. This will help you when it is time to complete your résumé for college applications.