

CHANDLER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

High School & Beyond — News & Information

February 2021

for Families of 10th Grade Students

Internships – Becoming Career Ready

The sophomore year is a wonderful time to gain additional insight into your student's choice of career. There are varieties of ways to help with this endeavor.

ICAP – First students should complete the ICAP Curriculum for their specific grade level. These activities have been assigned within the state's Okcollegestart.org program. Students also have various opportunities to complete several interest inventories to help them make educated career choices. Your counselor will visit your English class to get you started.

Internships are a way for students to actually work in their chosen career field. While internships are unpaid while in school. We have had several students that have secured a job at the place where they did their internship. Internship programs have also allowed students to discover that the job/career they thought they were interested was not exactly what they had anticipated, thus allowing them to choose a different pathway.

Each of these career exploration activities provides the student with real-life opportunities to experience the daily interactions, expectations, and skills necessary for success in their career prior to entering college and/or the workforce.

Things to consider:

- Review your career interest inventories.
- Explore your top two or three choices.
- Call local businesses who match your choices.
- Form relationships now with mentors. They have the experience and can save you time and money.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Knowing your school expenses can give you a better sense of your potential student loan burden. About half of college freshmen in the U.S. underestimate the amount of debt they have, according to a 2014 [Brookings Institution report](#). That could keep you from using smart strategies, like paying off accumulated interest before it's added to your balance or signing up for the right loan repayment and forgiveness programs.

MYTHBUSTER

MYTH: My college savings fund means I'll never be able to qualify for aid.

REALITY: This is an often-asked extension to the last question. If your parents were diligent savers who put money away in [a college savings 529 plan](#), does that mean you'll be penalized as ineligible for other aid?

The truth is that a 529 account is treated like any other parental asset as long as it's owned by a parent or dependent student, and [there's a low cap](#) on the parental assets that go into calculating a family's expected contribution to college expenses.

The benefit of having the college savings account should vastly outweigh the potential reduction in aid that may result from having one.

Parental Involvement

Parental Involvement is one of the biggest factors in a child's academic success, and students whose parents are involved in their children's education are [more likely](#) to graduate, go to college, and enjoy learning.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- **Feb 18 – Gordon Cooper Interviews**
- **Feb 15 – President's Day No School**
- **April 17 – ACT at Chandler High School**

Student Checklist

- ☑ **Review PSAT/NMSQT or Pre-ACT results with your family.** If you took the PSAT/NMSQT, log in to [My College QuickStart](#) to get personalized feedback based on your PSAT/NMSQT score report.
- ☑ **Start thinking about ways to pay for college.** Read [7 Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid](#) to learn more.
- ☑ **Discuss next year's classes with your family and guidance counselor.** Learn more about the [high school classes that colleges look for](#)
- ☑ **Use Okcollegestart.org** to investigate careers, colleges, and career techs.
- ☑ **Apply for Oklahoma's Promise.** It's your last chance. Families who make less than \$55,000 a year can get free tuition at state schools. Apply by June of your sophomore year. [Okpromise.org](#)

Family Checklist

- ☑ **Review PSAT/NMSQT or Pre-ACT results together.** Your child's score report indicates his or her academic strengths and weaknesses. Review the report together and talk about ways to improve in areas that need attention. If your child took the PSAT/NMSQT, help him or her log in to [My College QuickStart](#) to get personalized feedback based on his or her PSAT/NMSQT score report.
- ☑ **Start thinking about ways to pay for college.** Most families get help paying for college costs. Read [7 Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid](#) to learn more.
- ☑ **Discuss next year's classes.** Make sure your child will be challenging him- or herself and taking the courses college admission officers expect to see.

Sources: [Federal Student Aid](#), [BigFuture](#), & [ReadySetGrad](#)