Sophomore Roadmap and Checklist

Starting your second year of high school brings greater opportunities for academic achievement and career exploration. Here is a roadmap that can help guide you.

Career
Exploring careers and thinking more seriously about your interests, abilities and goals are encouraged. To help you get started:

- **www.sdmylife.com** – update your interest inventory and look at careers more closely that are based on your interests.
- All sophomores will get to explore a career area at the Lake Area Technical Institute **Big Camp Out** at Watertown on December 3. This career camp will give students an in depth look at many careers within a career area, such as agriculture, business or health.
- Meet with college/tech school representatives and military recruiters throughout the school year. All of our South Dakota schools send representatives to our school, especially in the fall. They either set up in the lobby during lunches or in the counselor’s office. Students can meet with representatives and recruiters to learn what each has to offer and ask questions. Meetings usually last 15-20 minutes and are a highly effective use of time.
- Job Shadow – spend 3 hours shadowing an employee in a career you are considering. Talk to Ms. Huber for further discussion and scheduling.

Academics

- What kind of training is required for your careers of interest? Do you need a **2 or 4-year degree, an apprenticeship, a certification, or other**?
- Review your **transcript**:
  1. Are you taking classes to help you prepare for the career and for the school you plan to attend?
  2. How are your grades? Are you learning at the peak of your ability?
  3. What does your attendance record indicate?
     a) Responsibility – how strong is your ability to make a commitment and to follow through?
     b) View of self – how important are you and deserving of the gift of learning?
- Optional – sign up to take the **Pre-ACT exam** in the spring. Why take this exam? It is a practice ACT test, it indicates if a student is academically on track, it contains a career interest inventory and it gives an estimated ACT score. More information will come out in January.

School Involvement:

- **Get involved** in a co-curricular or extra-curricular activity (lists of activities and organizations are available in the counselor’s office).
  
  **Benefits include:**
  - Building relationships
  - Exploring Interests
  - Stress relief/relaxation/fun
  - Building leadership skills

Please consider me as one of your resources for career and post-high exploration and conversations. After reviewing this roadmap – students and parents are encouraged to contact me for information and assistance.

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