



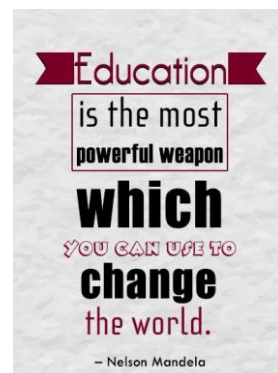
Pine Bluff High School - 2020-21

Michelle Heard & Dedric Jones, Career Coaches
PBHS Media Center

"FRESHMAN, R-U-Ready??"

Tips for Success

- A. Career Assessments
- B. Career Plans
- C. College Admissions
- D. Financial Aid
- E. CTE/Apprenticeships/WBL
- F. Business and Industry



1. **Keep your grades up!** As a freshman, your GPA begins to count and accumulate. It will affect you until you graduate high school! Really, focus on academics!! (*Freshman, Sophomore and Junior years are the most important years, and the main ones looked at by colleges*).
2. **Hang with the right crowd!** You will change and grow a lot as you transition from middle/junior high school to high school. Hanging out with the right people will help you make better choices.
3. **Schedule an appointment with your guidance counselor.** They can answer your questions! Discuss your post-graduation options: Create an education plan that suits your goals. Start to map your classes for high school, including Smart Core. Ask about extra STEM courses, AP, concurrent credit, and honors courses, which can earn you college credit.
4. **Get involved!** Join and participate in extracurricular activities and **stay active all four years** of high school. Include activities within and outside your school campus through leadership-oriented and volunteer opportunities in business and/or industry.
5. **Begin thinking about the careers that interest you and get ideas from them.** Ask your counselor and/or career coach about an aptitude or interest inventory to find your strengths, weaknesses, and interests to discover potential career choices that are right for you.
6. **Also, other avenues to begin considering are career readiness/work-based learning/apprenticeship programs.** The Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) a portable credential that confirms to employers that you have the basic workplace skills – that all jobs require. Work-based Learning provides opportunities to learn a variety of skills by expanding the classroom into the community, and the Apprenticeship Program is an opportunity to learn the ins and outs of a skilled trade from a master craftsman. Plus, it is paid for, on-the-job training! Also, talk to your teachers about other certifications at your school and how you might qualify for them.
7. **Keep a List!** As you go, keep a list of accomplishments, awards, and recognitions. It will make your life a lot easier in a few years when you need to fill out resumes and college applications.
8. **Talk to your parents about the cost of college.** Arkansas residents can log-on to scholarships.adhe.edu to obtain additional information about scholarships, grants and federal aid.

