

Tips for a successful year at Vicksburg High School

9th and 10th grades

1. Attend school every day. Attendance is directly related to academic success. Don't skip classes.
2. Find a group to join like band, sports, choir, or the ROTC. Studies show that students that are involved in extracurricular activities are less likely to drop out.
3. Plan to graduate.
4. Develop an ICAP (individual career assessment plan) and discuss your career plans and courses with your counselor. Start developing a resume including awards and volunteer hours.
5. Realize that your gpa (grade point average) starts now. Don't wait until your junior or senior year to get good grades.
6. Study daily and do your homework. One zero on a missed assignment usually drops your grade by one letter.
7. Attend freshman orientation and back to school night.
8. Create an active student account and monitor your grades.
9. Complete and turn in assignments on time. They all matter.
10. Create a high school file to keep up with paperwork such as individual state test score sheets, volunteer hours, and awards.

11th grade

1. Attend school every day.
2. Create an active student and monitor your grades.
3. Study daily.
4. Don't skip class.
5. Get your gpa and class rank from your counselor (September or October).
6. Prepare and take the ACT (<http://actstudent.org>).
7. Start thinking about life beyond high school, research careers and visit colleges.

8. Revisit ICAP (<http://ms.bridges.com>) and plan courses for your junior and senior year and update awards, activities, and volunteer hours.
9. Develop good social interactions like study groups.
10. Work on successfully completing state tests.

12th grade

1. Attend school every day. Attendance is directly related to academic success.
2. Take the ACT during your first semester, so that you have your score for college applications and scholarships.
3. Visit colleges and narrow your choices to no more than three.
4. Apply early and often for scholarships. Check with guidance, and look on college websites.
5. Visit and update your ICAP resume (<http://ms.bridges.com>) with awards and volunteer hours. You can use this to submit with scholarships and with recommendation letters.
6. Make sure you get at least the required 10 service hours. (Form can be found [here](#)). Turn your completed form in to the career center or your senior English teacher.
7. Visit with your counselor to get your updated GPA and class rank and discuss your plans after high school.
8. Make sure you have completed all state exams for graduation.
9. Appearance matters. Be aware of your appearance, especially for interviews.
10. Don't miss graduation practice.

Submitted by the VHS guidance counselors.