

Advice for an Incoming 9th Grade
By: Matthew Bauer

Every year, new freshman come into our school, and seniors graduate. At some point, every high school student will be at the beginning, and end of their high school career. This time in a student's life is so important, and high school should not be overlooked. Going into high school, there are a few things that freshman should keep in mind to maximize their high school experience.

The first is to stay focused. Usually, coming into high school as a freshman, students are eager to learn in a new school and setting. But, as high school goes on, their focus on what's important, their education, may begin to fall behind. So, my advice to students is to stay focused on what's important. Students may think more about other things in school, and forget it is their education that is most important. I urge students to stay focused in high school, and be sure to always put education first when it comes to priorities.

The second piece of advice for an incoming freshman is to push yourself to achieve. When it comes to the classes that you take, I encourage you to challenge yourself. Don't settle for a course that is going to require little effort to pass. Go for the classes that will challenge you to work hard and think outside of your normal comfort zone. This will help to prepare you for college and your future career.

The third piece of advice I have for freshman students is to get involved. Education should always be your number one priority, but getting involved in a club or athletics will really help to maximize your high school experience. It will give you an opportunity to meet other people interested in the same thing as you, and will allow you to make connections that could last a lifetime. There's something for everyone at every high school, whether it be a sport, music or band, or one of the many high school clubs. So, my advice to you is to get involved in your high school and have fun.

My last piece of advice for an incoming 9th grader is to always make high school enjoyable. Your education and involvement during school is extremely important, but in addition to that, you can't have a good high school experience without enjoying your time there. High school is a chance to meet so many new people and make some friends. Every now and then, give yourself some time to go hang out with a friend after school and study. Maybe go over to a friend's house and play a game of pickup basketball. Whatever you do to have fun, take some time out of high school to do it with someone you enjoy spending time with.

Overall, in high school my advice to you is this: put education first and always stay focused, challenge yourself to achieve, get involved in extracurricular activities, and always find time to have fun with friends. If you follow my advice, you will not only be set up to have a great high school experience, but will be set up for the rest of your life. Your high school experience based on these key points will not only set you up for a successful academic career, but will also allow you to have fun and enjoy the things you love.