

Freshman Survival Guide

I would start by passing down the advice I personally received from my older brother, who happened to be a senior the year that I entered high school as a freshman. He told me to work as hard as I could my freshman and sophomore years, meaning to take as many English, Science, and Math classes as possible so that when it came time for me to get a job and start working after school, my homework would already be done. I would have the harder core classes under my belt so I could not be as stressed my junior and senior years. My brother's motto was "The harder you work now, the less you have to do later on."

The second piece of advice I would give is to just relax and stop stressing over the little stuff like who you are going to go out with on Friday night or what somebody may or may not have said about someone else. If it does not directly affect you then it doesn't really matter. The best thing you can do for not just yourself, but your report card as well, is to focus on what really matters the most and what assignments are due first. If you get caught up in the popularity race, you will only stress yourself out.

Another fantastic thing about high school, is the variety of courses available. Once your required classes are out of the way, I would strongly encourage everyone to explore classes related to their hopeful field of study. With classes covering everything from how to run a businesses finances, to becoming a carpenter or fabricator. With dozens of teachers and forces at your disposal, you should be more than able to find multiple classes related to things that interest you.

When it comes to finding friends, the best way to build friendships is to join clubs that relate to things you are interested in and just put yourself out there. For example, I have grown up in hay fields and at my grandpa's small horse farm, as well as hunting and fishing every chance I got, so when I learned that the FFA was full of kids that had grown up doing the same things, I was able to build countless connections. I went from having really only one friend going into high school to having dozens of people I could count on and that I am still honored to call a friend. High school clubs will slowly draw you out of your comfort zone and allow you to accomplish things you never dreamed possible before. All you need to do is just be involved, and you will be very surprised to see how many people are just like you, going through the same things you are, and struggling with the same assignments and classes. Just simply having those people around you, that you meet through your involvement in clubs, will make your high school experience astronomically more enjoyable.

For some teenagers, entering high school is a scary unknown. There's a big chance they are moving to a different building, maybe not seeing their friends as much or any longer, or having to meet and build relationships with new teachers and school staff. The reality of being in high school and having to start making some decisions that will affect their future will have to be made. That can be scary and overwhelming. If freshmen work hard during that first year, join clubs that could make new friends, and are willing to explore classes to help them decide what they want to do with their future, then their year will be a success!!