

Back to the grind — *in a good way*

It's back to early mornings and after-school activities. As you get back in the groove, set yourself up for success. Look ahead and make some big goals for yourself. Outline a specific grade point average you wish to achieve, form a checklist for going to college, or try to decide what career you want to pursue.

Remember Me

ACT Test Date
September **12**

ACT Registration
September **18**

SAT Test Date
October **3**

SAT Registration
October **9**

ACT Test Date
October **24**

SAT Registration
November **5**

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with us!



High School Students

- Use your time in high school wisely. Check out all your [options](#) for after graduation, including the types of colleges available and which [careers](#) require continuing education. It's important to start early, so you find the best fit for you.
- If your school participates in the [A+ Scholarship](#) program, ask your counselor about meeting the requirements.
- Sign up for the ACT or SAT this fall or next spring. Your score will be used to determine your eligibility for the Missouri [Bright Flight](#) program and for scholarships from your potential colleges. Take the test early so you have time to improve your score if necessary.

High School Seniors

- Start applying for [grants and scholarships](#). Ask your counselor for scholarship applications, and check into local organizations in your area. You will most likely need to include a few letters of recommendation, so it may be a good time to ask some of the adults in your life (teachers, coaches, youth leaders, employers, etc.) if they would be willing to write a reference letter for you.
- Be aware of all scholarship deadlines and requirements; you don't want to miss out on free money! Stay organized by writing down the deadlines on your academic calendar.
- In the coming months you'll need to start making plans for after high school. If you will be applying to college, now would be a great time to start writing those college admission essays. You should also consider visiting a few colleges so you know where you'll want to apply. Get the most out of your college visit with these [helpful hints](#). Also take time to meet with school representatives at college fairs or school visits.
- If your high school is participating in [Apply Missouri](#), take advantage of the designated time to apply to several colleges. Your school will provide the help and resources you need.
- Don't miss out on other college tips and information about scholarship opportunities. Follow Journey to College on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

College Students

- The drop date for classes may be quickly approaching. Meet with your advisor before dropping a class to discuss how it could affect your full-time status, scholarship money, grade point average and overall cost of your education. Dropping a class just because you may receive a lower grade than desired may not be the best option in the long run.
- Take advantage of [on-campus resources](#) such as free tutoring services, free social events and possible job opportunities. For first-time freshman, campus life means a new beginning; [learn](#) about managing your time, finances and social life.
- If you received the [Bright Flight Scholarship](#), keep in mind that as a renewal student, a 2.5 cumulative GPA is required to continue receiving the award.

Parents

- Talk to your kids about the future and encourage them to weigh all of their options for after high school. If you have a junior or senior, consider taking them on college visits so they can get a feel for college life and get excited about what the future may hold.
- If your children plan to attend college in the future, or if you have a college student now, check out the [Missouri 529 College Savings Plan](#). The state-sponsored plan provides tax deductions and benefits, and it's never too late to start using it.