

# “ ----- YOUR ----- SOPHOMORE YEAR GRADES DO MATTER.”

## **Student To Do List:**

- Meet with your **school counselor** or mentor to discuss colleges and their requirements.
- Consider taking a practice Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (**PSAT/NMSQT**) or the **PLAN** exam.
- Plan to use your **summer** wisely:  
Work, volunteer, or take a summer course (away or at a local college).
- Go to **career information** events to get a more detailed look at career options.
- Research majors** that might be a good fit with your interests and goals based on your results from the U.S. Department of Labor’s career search.

## **Explore:**

- Learn the differences between **grants, loans, work-study, and scholarships**.

## **Parents To Do List:**

- Find out whether your child’s school has **college nights** or financial aid nights. Plan to attend those events with your child.
- Help your child **develop independence** by encouraging him or her to take responsibility for balancing homework with any other activities or a part-time job.

## **Explore:**

- Learn about the standardized **tests** your child will be taking during 10th through 12th grades.
- Get a brief overview of **financial aid** from “Do You Need Money for College—Student Aid at a Glance.”