

# Advice from the Class of 2018 to the Class of 2022: “Things I wished I knew before coming to high school.”

- **Get involved in activities**
  - It doesn't matter what your interests are, there is something for you.
  - You may find something that you really enjoy that you had not thought about before.
  - Having interests outside of school can often help relieve the stress of school.
  - It will actually help you keep your grades up.
  - Being involved can help with college and scholarship applications.
- **Freshmen grades matter**
  - It is harder to climb out of a hole so don't throw away your first year.
  - Failing required courses means repeating them!
  - Keep track of your grades and the number of credits earned.
  - GPA doesn't completely define you but will follow you throughout high school. It will make an impression in later years so do as well as you can.
- **Upperclassmen aren't scary**
  - You can talk to older students; ask questions and get help.
  - Older students will respect you; do the same!
- **Manage time well**
  - Don't procrastinate!!!
  - Teachers have deadlines for a reason.
  - Get things turned in on time.
  - Getting behind only makes things harder.
  - If you take an Academic Lab, make sure to use the time wisely.
- **Four years will pass by quickly**
  - Go to games, plays, dances, etc; you'll look back later and be glad that you did.
  - Don't be afraid to try new things.
- **Friends will change over the course of four years**
  - You may not always have lunch or classes with your middle school friends; don't be afraid to make new friends.
  - Find a group of friends who will be a positive influence on you.
  - Your friends may change over the course of four years.
- **Doing poorly on one test is not the end of the world but fix it**
  - Talk with teachers about how to do better.
  - Make sure to study!

- **Enjoy high school but don't get distracted from the real purpose**
  - Do your very best in every class.
  - Plan for life after high school.
  
- **Develop good study habits**
  - Stay organized and ACTUALLY study.
  - Learn how to take good notes and ask questions in class.
  - Take your grades seriously!
  - You can't always get things done in academic lab or homeroom so you may have to finish things at home.
  
- **Demonstrate maturity**
  - Don't bring middle school drama to high school.
  - Don't get involved in high school drama.
  - Be responsible at all times.
  - Attendance is very important.
  - Listen to adults when they give you advice.
  - Don't give up! No matter what, you can always do better.
  
- **Don't be afraid to approach teachers with questions**
  - Make connections with teachers; they may be able to help you in many different ways in the future.
  - Teachers WANT their students to be successful, but they will not do everything for you.
  
- **BE ALL IN**
  - Come to school every day with a positive attitude and a desire to do well along with the effort to do both.
  - Give your best in and out of school.
  - Take advantage of opportunities like dual credit, vocational, and elective classes.