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| **“The exploration of their careers opened their eyes to the demands of society and that education/ training is directly connected to income. This project/knowledge provided the students with an insight to the real world.”**  **Wendy Herman Ventura Park Public School** |

**Stay on it!**

1. Introduction- Aloha and Welcome to Bright Tree’s Financial “best practices” to plan for college! We will share with you the following: a) preparation steps from 9th -12th grade, b) How to prepare and successfully survive in College.

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| **Click on this College video – It is humorous but instills the value of “college going”.** |
| <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1yAOK0nSb0> |

Here are Pictures of our College Graduates who have used Bright Tree’s best practices to graduate!

\*Insert Pictures: (Need to obtain from former successful graduates)



[This Photo](http://www.shoutoutuk.org/2014/01/22/4-employment-tips-for-the-graduate-recruitment-market/) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/)

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| **Seeing is believing and believing is seeing the hope and a bright future for our students.** |

1. Best practices for college planning regarding 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th graders
2. Best Practice for Students to prepare for College- STAY ON IT!

**Student To-Do List**

**Elementary and Middle School**

Get involved with school/community clubs, sports and extracurricular activities.

Get in the habit of setting goals and come up with action steps to reach those goals.

Develop good study, time management, and organization skills.

Read on a regular basis to help with SAT/ACT scores.

**9th Grade**

Make an appointment with your guidance counselor to create your academic plan for the next 4 years.

Think about your academic strengths and interest. Most colleges require 4 years of English, 3 years of Social Studies, 3 years of Math, 3 years of Science, 2 years of language (3 for California schools).

Continue with extracurricular activities(start your resume)

Complete the Assessment questions found in Career Cruising to get a list of careers that match your interest & abilities**.**

Read on a regular basis to help with SAT/ACT scores.

Grades count!

**10th Grade**

Think of which AP classes may interest you. AP classes usually have pre-requisites to enroll (check with your guidance counselor).

Take the PSAT/PLAN

Keep reading on a regular basis to help with SAT/ACT scores.

Complete the Career Cruising assessment questions if you have not already done so

Check with your guidance counselor during course registration for next year. Make sure your course credits will meet college requirements at schools you want to attend.

Continue with extracurricular activities(update your resume)

Plan your summers (work, volunteer, or take summer classes).

**11th Grade**

Think about your interest and decide what field of study you wish to pursue. Research colleges that fit your interest/major. Career Cruising is a great resource.

Enroll in an SAT prep course.

Register and take the SAT and ACT.

Take advantage of college representative visits to your school & college fairs.

Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss college choices. Review your transcripts and test scores with your counselor to determine how competitive your application will be from an academic standpoint.

Visit colleges you may be interested in (usually during the spring/summer break).

Start planning your summer activities. Consider working or volunteering in your field of interest during the summer. Look for internship programs.

Think about which teachers, coaches and counselors (3 references) you will ask to write a

recommendation and approach them before the end of the school year.

Check with your guidance counselor to make sure your course credits for next year will meet college requirements at the schools you want to attend.

Keep an accurate record of your personal and academic information.

**11th Grade – Summer**

Develop a preliminary list of 15-20 colleges that interest you.

Research which colleges accept the common application. Contact schools that do not accept it and request a copy of their application. Make note of application and financial aid deadlines for each school.

Begin writing your college essays. Have 2-3 people review them.

Schedule any campus visits.

Consider tutoring to improve SAT/ACT scores.

If you are going to re-take the ACT, SAT, SAT-Subject Test or did not take them yet - register now.

### Test preparation

Students who plan to take the SAT college entrance exam can benefit from building test-taking and knowledge skills for free on the [Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.org/) platform. Radford High student Eryn Lum, below, increased her score from the PSAT to the SAT by a total of 190 points. With her grades and her improved SAT score she qualified for the [Western Undergraduate Exchange](https://www.wiche.edu/wue) to help reduce tuition costs at [Colorado State University](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xS4MAqie1zM)

[1:41](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xS4MAqie1zM)

### [Find Your Rhythm - Eryn](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xS4MAqie1zM)

[The College Board](https://www.youtube.com/user/collegeboard)

244 views5 months ago

Real students. Real progress. Meet Eryn from Radford High School in Honolulu, Hawaii who understands the power of building ...

CC

**12th Grade – August/September**

Request transcripts from your guidance office.

Mark school key dates and deadlines on your calendar.

Check with your school counselor to see if any college representatives will be visiting your high school or in your community this fall.

Ask selected individuals if they would be willing to write a letter of recommendation for you. Give them all the proper forms, with your portion of the forms filled out along with an addressed and stamped envelopes for them to mail the letters. Remember to send thank you notes to everyone who writes you a letter of recommendation.

Research each school’s application requirements (record them in your College Organizer & Planner binder).

Create your Common Application account. (Available in early August)

**12th Grade – October**

Begin reviewing application forms for your final list of colleges. Take your time filling out the application and be accurate. This is the main snapshot the school will receive of you as an applicant, so take the time to make the quality of your application as high as possible.

Write your college admissions essays. This is an excellent way to set you apart from other applicants.

**12th Grade – November/December**

Apply to schools prior to Thanksgiving break.

Be sure that you have requested your ACT Assessment and SAT scores be sent to your colleges of choice.

Do not be late submitting your college applications. Mark your calendar with all application deadlines for each of your schools. Make copies of your documents for your files.

Check with your counselor that all transcripts have been sent to your schools.

Apply for housing when you submit the application, if required by the school.

**12th Grade – January - March**

Ask your counselor to send in 1st semester grades to your schools.

Confirm transcripts have been received by each school.

Submit a copy of your acceptance letters and financial aid award letters to BrightTree (former HG Capital)

Check your emails regularly for communication from your schools and log into your school’s student portal to check for any outstanding requirements.

**12th Grade – April – June**

Register for Advanced Placement (AP) tests, if applicable.

Request that your final transcript be sent to your school.

Notify the school of your choice that you have accepted their offer and send in the deposit by May 1st.

Be sure to notify the colleges you have chosen not to attend.

**NOTES:**

Best Practices for Students to prepare for College: STAY ON IT!

1. **Know that your financial monies are in order for your schooling:**

Do you have enough to cover the four-year academic plan using personal monies, savings, trust fund, scholarships, loans, etc),

* Work with the FAFSA service with Bright Tree Financial planner,
* Work on Scholarship applications and stick to deadlines.
* Work with Parents in clearly articulating (Degree Completion) that you will finish in “x” years (i.e: 4 years) for your degree and understand the concept of:

**Return of Investment**- Why are parents/significant others investing for you to obtain an educational 4 year (Bachelor’s degree), OR graduate (Master’s degree), OR Doctoral and professional degree (P.H.D, M.D. Psy.D, PharmD, etc)? Do you agree with this statement: “Once you make a commitment to attend a mainland school, you will complete your degree”. What does that personally mean to you regarding your parents are investing in your education?

1. Know Thyself -Student Maturity:

* Are you ready- “psychologically, emotionally, and mentally ready” to leave the island for a certain number of years? This is not a “feel good question” but basically addresses that you are ready to be independent of your loved ones and ready to start a confident new academic journey on the mainland.
* Is there open and honest communication between you and parents/significant other? How are you communicating with your parents/significant other?
* Are you able to accept academic/personal failure? If yes, how does it make you feel and what will you to do be much more successful? If no, how will you deal with personal and academic failure?
* Do you have the confidence to communicate clearly with a diverse population? If yes, how, if no why not?
* Are you able to connect and make friends? How will you achieve this?
* If you are homesick, how will you realistically deal with it?
* If you know you are in “danger” on or off campus what would you do?
* Are you willing to explore and accept new experiences and openly share your own background with others?

1. Know thy major and school and career will eventually follow:

IF you have a focused plan, willing to work hard, and not quit you will have a strong possibility in completing your degree in 4 years or less.

Academic focus

Major + School = Career

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| Primary Major:  Minor option: | 1st School Choice: | Career Choice/Interest: |
| Primary Major:  Minor option: | 2nd School Choice: | Career Choice/Interest: |
| Primary Major:  Minor option: | 3rd School choice: | Career Choice/Interest: |

Option of choosing a Career: \* Continue to Use Career Cruising the software provided by Bright Tree.

If you are 50% unsure about your major, what career field are you interested in? (i.e Working with people in the health area)

After choosing a college, the most important decision for a student is their major. While some students enroll in college knowing exactly what they want to do, many won’t declare a major until after their freshman or sophomore year. Usually, academic interests and intended career paths factor into students’ choice of major. However, students should also consider earning potential, especially with the [cost of college continuing to rise.](https://nces.ed.gov/FastFacts/display.asp?id=76)

1. Know you are responsible and accountable for your academic journey:

I “messed up academically and my GPA falters below a 2.0”

What do you do to help yourself out of this situation?

* If you are placed on academic suspension: Would you come back home and attend a local Community College or University? Would you work for a year/semester before returning to school? Do you have a solution?
* TIME MANAGEMENT: Are you managing and balancing your time wisely? Are you sticking to the academic plan and not wanting to quit? Do you know your personal barriers that impede you from using your time wisely?
* Are you maximizing on the school resources for academic/personal reasons? If you have need, do you know where to go for the Financial Aid office/Bursar’s Office, Health Center, Mental Counseling Center, Career Services, Student life (clubs, student activities, sports, etc).
* Would you form a study group with fellow students?
* Utilizing the learning and tutoring center for academic assistance
* Connecting to professors/graduate assistants with class questions and faculty advice/insight for internships/graduate school/career opportunities.
* Meeting regularly about 2-3 times a semester/quarter with advisors/counselors in discussing your academic plan for graduation and possibly pursuing your internship or career or graduate school, etc.
* Be aware of your eating, sleeping, and all-around health condition- mentally, emotionally, and physically. Utilize campus resources. Your body is your temple!

1. Know your resources prior to Graduation

* Work with academic or career counselors for volunteer opportunities in field or internships
* Start planning for Graduate School, “professional test preparation, i.e: MCAT for medical school, etc”
* Obtain a minimum of three letters of recommendations from professors/faculty that have seen your academic progress and know your character essential for graduate school, internships, or future employment.
* Research employment trends and opportunities in your specific field
* Are you planning to come home to work? Stay up in the mainland and work?
* Are there other factors/variables that I need to know to personally have a successful transition after graduation?
* Do you have a post college plan that is realistic and conducive for you to survive independently in your chosen location?

**Resources:**

Academic & Career Planning Article

<http://www.cit.org/assets/1/7/VDOEACPBestPracticesSummary.pdf>

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| **Podcast-** [**Smart Career Planning**](https://player.fm/series/smart-career-planning)36 WEEKS AGO    Take control of your career path with Smart Career Planning. Join Helen Chao as she shares with you tips and strategies on how to ace that job interview,and plan your next career move. |