

# ALCS College Preparation Checklist

## 8th grade

- Attend Step-Up Day
- Take the PSAT 8/9
- Learn about course and extracurricular options in high school
- Choose 9<sup>th</sup> grade courses

## Every year of high school

- Maintain a strong GPA
- Push yourself academically
- Be involved in activities—quality over quantity
- Record your involvement in activities at the end of each school year

## 9<sup>th</sup> grade

- Take the PSAT 8/9
- Begin exploring careers
- Talk to your parents about their expectations for paying for college or other post-secondary education and begin saving and planning

## 10<sup>th</sup> grade

- Take the PSAT
- Find careers that interest you and determine what type of further education they require; make a career portfolio with your top choices
- Explore post-secondary education options

## 11<sup>th</sup> grade

- Take the PSAT (National Merit Scholarship Program qualification)
- Register for and take the ACT/SAT—taking it this year will give you a benchmark score to inform your future preparation and determine which schools might be a good fit
- Update your career portfolio
- Begin college search and add top choices to college list
- Prepare for applying to college (think through your high school activities and who you would like to write any letters of reference)
- Visit colleges you are interested in attending

## 12<sup>th</sup> grade

- Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1
- Search for and apply for scholarships
- Register for the ACT/SAT
- Take the ACT/SAT
- Complete college applications and essays by the deadline
- Make any additional visits to colleges where you are accepted
- Decide which college to attend and submit necessary paperwork by the deadline
- Register for classes