***Meridian World School***

*Freshman Conference*

Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**GRADUATION STATUS**

You have earned \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ credits as of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. You need \_\_28\_\_ total credits to graduate under the Meridian plan:

Foundation High School Program (FHSP) Distinguished Achievement Plan (DAP) (DAP) & IB Diploma Program\*

Which of the following endorsements are you planning to earn by graduation? (check one or more)

\_\_\_\_\_ Multidisciplinary \_\_\_\_\_ STEM \_\_\_\_\_ Arts & Humanities

\***Save the date –January 19th, 2021 for the IB Diploma Program parent information night**

All 10th and 11th graders take the October PSAT at Meridian. In 10th grade, your student will take a yearlong College Readiness Course that includes college and career exploration and test preparation.

**WHAT YOU DO TODAY IS THE DIRECTION FOR TOMORROW!**

Do your best in school. You owe it to yourself to learn as much as you can and become the best person you can be. Your grades appear on your high school transcript, and are a necessary part of your college application. Think about your organizational skills, communication skills, interpersonal skills, interests, and hobbies.

What are your strengths?

What are areas for improvement?

What are your interests?

What are your goals after you graduate from high school?

**PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES!**

Extracurricular activities and enrichment programs are a great way to develop talents and interests. Colleges and employers like to see that you have interests in addition to school. Check all the types of activities that interest you in the chart below. What information do you need to get involved in that activity?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***In School*** | | ***In Your Community*** | |
|  | Student Council |  | Youth Organizations |
|  | Performing Arts (Band, Orchestra Theater, etc.) |  | Religious Groups |
|  | Model UN |  | Community Service |
|  | Writing Club |  | Summer Enrichment Programs |
|  | Sports |  | Summer Camps |
|  | Other school sponsored club(s): (please list)  1)  2)  3) |  | Part-time Job |
|  | Other: |

**THINGS TO DO**

\_\_\_\_\_ Attend class. You must maintain the 90% compulsory attendance law. Failure to comply with this law will result in the loss of semester/course credit and could prevent graduation.

\_\_\_\_\_ Do your homework. Keep a calendar or planner so you do not forget important due dates. Staying on top of your responsibilities is part of growing up!

\_\_\_\_\_ Choose challenging course work to prepare for postsecondary success. Talk with your counselor regarding study skills and/or organizational assistance if you are having trouble reaching your goals in classes. Peers can also be a great source for academic help. Remember, colleges look at the level of your courses as well as grades.

\_\_\_\_\_ Be aware that employers and colleges review social networking sites. Practice caution with what is posted online. Now is a good time to establish a professional email address.

\_\_\_\_\_ Create a college file with the following items:

* list of community organizations and clubs you join (include dates of participation and any offices you held)
* list of volunteer/community involvement activities (include dates of participation and contact information)
* list of jobs you have had (include dates of employment and contact information for our supervisor)
* letters of recommendation
* copies of your report cards
* list of your honors and awards

Note: All of this information will help you write a resume or complete future applications for jobs, scholarships, or college!

\_\_\_\_\_ Talk with your parents, teachers, counselor, and other respected adults about going to college. Ask people who have attended college to share their experiences with you. The more people you tell, the more support you will have to help you reach your goal. There may be obstacles, but with help, you can overcome those obstacles. No one regrets getting an education!

\_\_\_\_\_ Research colleges by attending college fairs and browsing online websites. Also visit colleges of interest or any college in a city where you might be travelling. Each visit will help you define the ideal college fit for you.

**Upcoming college fair opportunities:**

Virtual College Fair tips article: <https://www.commonapp.org/blog/three-steps-making-most-virtual-college-fair>

NACAC college fair registration link <https://gotomyncf.com/Registration/EventSelectForState?stateName=All>

NACAC virtual fairs [virtualcollegefairs.org](http://virtualcollegefairs.org/)

Virtual college fair <https://virtual.gotocollegefairs.com/>

Strive virtual college fair <https://www.strivescan.com/virtual/>

\_\_\_\_\_ Dream about the career you want when you finish school. What will it take for you to achieve that dream? Ask people in the career field what they took in college. Ask others how they are achieving their dream. When you look at colleges, check out what majors they offer that are in line with your career goals. Online career interest inventories can help point you in the right direction.

\_\_\_\_\_ Seek out part-time jobs and/or volunteer activities related to your career interests.

\_\_\_\_\_ Research scholarships and financial aid. It’s never too early to begin your research on paying for college by checking online websites. (i.e. [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov), [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/high-school-students/scholarships-for-high-school-freshman>, [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org), etc.) Every student should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in October of his or her senior year ([www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) )

**ADDITIONAL HELPFUL WEBSITES**

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

[www.collegeforalltexans.com](http://www.collegeforalltexans.com)

[www.collegeispossible.org](http://www.collegeispossible.org)

[www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)

[www.comparecollegetx.com](http://www.comparecollegetx.com)

<https://www.cappex.com/>

<https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/tools/scholarship-search/>

[www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org)

[www.schoolsintheusa.com](http://www.schoolsintheusa.com)

[www.texascaresonline.com](http://www.texascaresonline.com)

[www.texasrealitycheck.com](http://www.texasrealitycheck.com)

[www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com)

www.texasoncourse.org

STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

COUNSELOR SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Comments:\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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