**Year by Year “Points of Interest” students & Parents should know**

Freshman

* Your grades count toward your future now!
* Every final grade each semester is calculated into your cumulative GPA from here on out!
* This GPA will be used to qualify you for college admissions, scholarships, class rank and more.
* Initial admission to college looks at grades from 9, 10, and 11th grade. This means you have 3 years to get the best grades you can.
* You will take the EXPLORE test this year, your first ACT prep exam
* Start working on your community service hours!

Sophomores

* Your GPA is still accumulating
* You will be taking the PLAN test this year, your 2nd practice ACT exam
* Your classes are the building block for your future HS and college courses
* Colleges like to see rigorous course work, choose good electives when planning for Junior/Senior year scheduling.
* Get involved! Many colleges and scholarships want to see students that are actively involved in their community & school through participation in clubs and sports as well as volunteering & helping your community.
* Keep building on your community service hours!

Juniors

* This is your most important year!!!
* You will be taking the ACT/MME in March
  + Three days of testing, every Junior in MI will be testing
  + These exams are your college admissions scores and will also determine *many* scholarship opportunities for you
* Your GPA at the end of this year will be what college admissions look at to determine if you’re accepted or not.
* You need to start thinking about where you might want to apply your senior year.
* Research schools or future plans/goals online
* Job shadow, talk to people in fields you are interested in, meet with your school counselor, etc.
* Encourage college tours and visits in the summer
* Sign up for rigorous courses senior year—this always looks good to colleges that you’re not taking ‘fluff courses’ your senior year.
* Keep working on your community service hours!

Seniors

* In the fall you need to apply to any colleges you’re interested in!
* September & October are PRIME months to apply.
* Applying late can decrease your chances of financial aid, scholarships or admission
* You must decide on a school and submit first payment by spring time, typically in May (depending on the school)
* Your grades still count! Final Transcripts are mailed to the respective school once you finish the year. Just because you were admitted in the fall doesn’t mean they can’t deny their previous decision if you do poorly in your senior year!
* Search and apply for scholarships. There are millions out there!
* Watch the senior link on the Counselors Corner of the BCHS webpage for scholarship opportunities throughout the winter and spring months
* Parents: file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by March 1st! Also, attend our Financial Aid Night here at school in January for help on all things ‘Aid’.
* Your community service hours (40) are due in the spring!
* Have fun! It’s your last year of high school! ☺