

## Tenth Grade Tips for Having a Successful High School Career

Kathy Leaver, [kleaver@shelbyed.k12.al.us](mailto:kleaver@shelbyed.k12.al.us)

- Continually review your 4 year plan & know the graduation requirements.
- Write down short & long term goals & work to achieve them.
- Take the most challenging courses in which you can be successful. Many colleges & scholarship programs look for Honors & Advanced Placement courses on your transcript.
- Plan to work in other courses of interest to you.
- Learn how to calculate your GPA & remember you will have only 6 semesters of grades on your transcript when you apply to college & you will have 4 of those by the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade year.
- Sharpen your study & time-management skills.
- Ask for help immediately if you need it.
- Get involved in extra-curricular activities at school & in the community.
- Continue to seek leadership opportunities to hone your skills & do not be afraid to step up to the plate.
- Volunteer your time & talents doing community service.
- READ! It increases your vocabulary & improves your writing & comprehension skills.
- Consider taking the PSAT in the fall as a 10<sup>th</sup> grader for practice & for consideration to be a Superintendent Super Scholar.
- In the fall, all 10<sup>th</sup> graders will take the PLAN, a pre-ACT test; take it seriously & do your best.
- Continue family discussions about college choices & the costs.
- Whenever you are on a campus for an extra-curricular activity or you travel near a college, take time to check out the campus and begin making mental notes of what you see & what you like.