

# Great Choices Series: Blueprints for Your Future

## Blueprints for College and Career

*Blueprints for Your Future: College and Career* greets middle and junior high students with a startling message: It is time to get ready for high school, college, and career. Through drawing, researching, and comparing career interests, students learn to apply basic planning strategies as they build an adaptable plan for the future. This workbook helps students navigate the transition to middle school, gain a vision for high school readiness and find meaning in their activities and studies.

## Blueprints for Classes

In *Blueprints for Your Future: Classes*, students build on their career plan by investigating four basic pathways to career goals: colleges and universities, community colleges and vocational schools, military service, and apprenticeships. Students learn the concrete steps they can take now to be ready for the many opportunities available during high school. This workbook gives early middle and junior high school students a framework for building a meaningful high school readiness plan.

## Blueprints for Studying

*Blueprints for Your Future: Studying* embraces the reality that studying takes a big step forward in middle school. As students become more independent in their daily school life, they must take more responsibility for their learning. This workbook helps students develop the perspective and the study tools appropriate to the young mind. With practical instructions, activities, and exercises, students create a plan for improved learning in one or more of their classes.

## Blueprints for Activities

*Blueprints for Your Future: Activities* combines the fun of active involvement with the importance of learning habits of success. Students explore possible activity choices by working through a comparison model. Following a simple but effective goal setting process, students will then identify and balance their priorities and interests, and develop their support team of peers and adults. Equipped with expectations, goals, and support, every middle or junior high student can enjoy the benefits of activities that help them learn, stretch and grow.

# **Great Choices Series: Inside Guides**

## **Choosing High School Courses**

This step-by-step guide assists the early high school student in creating a complete high school course plan. The Inside Guide to Choosing High School Courses presents an overview of commonly offered programs, teaches principles of good planning, and walks students through the process of choosing high school courses. Students complete the workbook by creating their high school course plan, keeping their goals in focus and allowing for well-reasoned changes as they progress through high school. Especially important for 8th and 9th graders, this guide can be used anytime during high school to help a student understand the need for a challenging program and a personal commitment to achievement.

## **Choosing Winning Activities**

Beyond the classroom, a world of opportunity awaits as students choose their extracurricular activities. The Inside Guide to Choosing Winning Activities helps students consider personal goals, interests, and resources as they evaluate and choose to pursue great activities. Throughout the guide, students will be encouraged to look beyond the surface and recognize some of the qualities of character, leadership, discipline, and responsibility that their activities will cultivate. This guide is an invaluable tool for any college bound student, with complete instructions for all evaluation tools and record keeping forms, which will be highly prized when college application time arrives. This guide is recommended for grades eight through ten.

## **Developing Strong Study Skills**

Achievement in high school takes more than a good mind and good effort; it takes good study skills. This simple and direct guide will help students master study skills in several areas, including note taking, test taking, memorization, organization, research, and time management. With instructions for a proven note taking system, a variety of study techniques, tips for memorization of facts, a step-by-step research guide, and reliable test taking strategies, our Inside Guide to Strong Study Skills is an invaluable tool chest for any student. Beyond great study skills, this guide will help student maximize their efforts with guidance in evaluating their use of time, setting priorities, and organizing all of their study areas: home, locker, backpack, and notebook. Beneficial for all students wanting to improve their study skills, this guide is recommended for middle school, high school, and even college students.

## **Setting and Achieving Goals**

A desire for great things comes naturally to most of us; transforming those great expectations into reality is a bit more challenging. The Inside Guide to Setting and Achieving Goals gives students the hidden key to that transformation: a practical plan for achievement. As students learn how short term goals lead to achievement of long term goals, they will begin to use their most basic hopes and dreams as stepping stones to reaching even

larger dreams. Recognizing that students are multi-dimensional, this guide encourages goal setting in a variety of areas including academic, physical, social, financial, and spiritual. Recommended for any student desiring to define a path and achieve a goal.

## **Standardized Testing**

Each student is unique, but the school, the state, prospective colleges, and potential employers all want to see students compared to a standard. Standardized testing is a fact of life today, from mandatory state and local testing, to the PSAT, PLAN, SAT, ACT and vocational exams, testing is part of the price of admission to the future. Our Inside Guide to Standardized Testing takes some of the stress out of those tests by addressing common questions about the testing process, exploring tools for improved test scores, and explaining the role of testing in your college application process. Guidance is also provided to help students understand their test results. While this important Guide to Standardized Testing brings clarity to the world of testing and will be useful to any student, it is highly recommended for students in the first two years of high school.

## **Choosing a College**

The best colleges are kind of like the best shoes, they are only as good as the fit. Our Inside Guide to the College Search will take the mystery out of the search process, giving you practical resources for a good college fit. From a complete personal profile to a meaningful college visit, our college search guide gives simple and complete guidance for knowing yourself, knowing your choices, and making a good match. This guide is a valuable resource for any student beginning the college search process, and is particularly recommended for college bound sophomores and juniors.

## **Completing the College Application**

Presenting all you are, all you have done and all you hope to be within a few pages of a college application is no small feat. Amid a stack of thousands of look-alike pages, your application must bring you to life; your courses, your grades, your test scores, your activities, and the unique qualities that make you a good fit for the admission officer's school must cry out for attention. Our Inside Guide to Completing the College Application will help you bring life to your application through your essays, short answers, resumes and interviews, and help you avoid the pitfalls of a poorly prepared application. As you are guided through the elements of the admissions process, you will begin to understand how to make the process work for you; with practical advice, effective checklists, and record-keeping suggestions, this guide is an invaluable tool for any student beginning the college application process.

## **Career Perspectives**

The *Inside Guide to Career Perspectives* guides students as they build an effective career and technology plan. Career Perspectives first gives students the tools to identify skills, interests, career options, and education and training opportunities, and goes on to guide them through a search for the schools or programs that are best

suited to their interests, needs and goals. Career Perspectives is an essential resource for students exploring a career and technology pathway.

## **Life Transitions**

The *Inside Guide to Life Transitions* provides students with support in acquiring the practical skills and personal development necessary for a successful transition into independent living. Focusing on the job search skills, including interviewing, resume writing and applying, as well as budgeting and personal development, *Life Transitions* is an ideal support resource for any student preparing to leave high school, leave home, and enter into life as a young adult.