

Well Round Student

(Colleges look for well-rounded students)

Success begins with a plan. The best resource to help you get that plan on paper is your guidance counselor. See your counselor as a freshman and lay out the courses you'll need each year for college. Math, Science, English Composition and Literature, and a foreign language are the basics.

Good grades are important. Learn how to study. Refer to our website (markulmerscholarship.org) under "How To Study" for study hints. If your school offers Advanced Placement or Honors courses, take advantage of that. If you have a local college, take college courses. Anything you can do to prepare yourself for college is helpful.

Get involved! Take an active leadership role in whatever activities you choose. Go out for sports. Be part of a team. You will find that learning to work as part of a team is an excellent learning tool. Most of you are here as a result of just that. Playing basketball will teach you a lot about the game of life.

Our scholarship foundation looks for students who have a broad background, both academically and in extracurricular activities. We want students who have volunteered in their community, school, tribe or church activities. Think about paying it forward by giving back. One such program is Pine Ridge's "B.E.A.R." program (Be Excited About Reading). The basketball players act as tutors in teaching young children to read.

Hopefully, your middle and high school will have programs like "GEAR UP", a program that helps prepare you for college. Find out about "Upward Bound", another college prep program often held on a college campus. It gives you an opportunity to take classes and experience college life.

It's important to keep a record of what you've done in high school to use as you fill out applications for college and for scholarships. Again, on our website, you will find a form called "Student Profile" under the link "Building a Student Profile" that will help you do just that.

There are many ways to prepare for college. In a way, you've already been doing that for most of your life.