## 1<sup>TH</sup> Grade Checklist

Reassess your Commitment to Graduate<sup>®</sup> and make sure your high school academic and extracurricular activities are preparing you to choose between all the future possibilities.

- □ **Review your personal graduation plan.** Check your transcript are you on track to graduate on time? If not, develop a plan to get caught up before your senior year.
- □ **Focus on academics.** Consider taking honors or AP courses, or think about signing up for dual credit classes to get a head start on college.
- □ Update your high school portfolio or resume.
- □ Identify your top 10 career options. Interview someone from each of these fields, and/or find an internship in an area that interests you. Make sure the colleges you are considering will prepare you for these careers.
- □ **Continue to volunteer in your community.** Make a goal to donate at least 36 hours of your time this year, by planning on nine hours each quarter.
- Stay active in school through clubs, organizations and/or sports.
- □ **Register to take the SAT/ACT** in the fall of your junior year. If you are unhappy with the score, retake it in the spring.
- □ Visit some of your "top 10" college choices during the summer after your junior year. Try to narrow your choices to the "top 5."
- Begin the application process for your top college choices during the summer after your junior year. Most importantly, examine the requirements for essays and begin writing them.
- Begin investigating scholarship opportunities. Visit your high school/college center. Complete as many applications as possible in the summer before your senior year. Register with these scholarship websites: fastweb.com and findtuition.com. Remember, even the \$1,000 scholarships make an impact on college expenses.

## ASSESS the Possibilities

