

## Upward Bound at MPC

### Tenth Grade Checklist:

- Talk with your parents and guidance counselor to make sure that you are taking all preparatory courses required for admission to college.
- Keep doing your best in school.
- Start getting ready for standardized tests. Most college and universities require you to take the [SAT I](#) or the [ACT](#) test. The SAT I test measures your verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities. The ACT is a test of the American College Testing Program. It includes tests in English, math, science reasoning and reading.
- This year you may want to take the [Preliminary SAT \(PSAT\)](#) to help you prepare for the SAT I. It will be especially difficult to take in the 10th grade if you have not had Algebra I and Geometry. Most students take the PSAT in the 11th grade. The PSAT scores are not sent to colleges. Use it to strengthen your test taking skills. Your 11th grade PSAT scores may qualify you for some scholarships. **The PSAT is only offered in October.** Your counselor can provide information about registration fee waivers. These are available to students who have difficulty paying for the test.
- Try some new extracurricular activities or expand the ones you are currently involved in.
- If you need to work, try to find a part-time job that is related to your career interests. Start saving money for college!
- Update your college file: include any new awards or certificates received.
- Visit colleges and universities to acquaint yourself with the collegiate environment.
- Ask your counselor to explain the differences between colleges and universities, private and public colleges, two-year and four-year colleges and the different types of undergraduate degrees.
- Start learning the specifics about financial aid such as scholarships, grants, loans, and college work study. These are the different parts of the financial aid package which is awarded to college students.