



7

STEPS TO PREPARE YOURSELF FOR  
**SUCCESS**  
IN  
**HIGH SCHOOL**



*Mastery Schools*



## 1. GET A PREVIEW

High schools offer orientation where they show you your schedule and give you an opportunity to take a tour of the school. Nobody wants to get lost their first day of school. Orientation is a great way to get the lay of the land. Make sure you familiarize yourself with where your classes are and key spots like the cafeteria, the gym and the library.

## 2. START STRONG

Freshman year is the first step toward your future. Although you will not take the ACT or begin to apply for colleges until junior year, preparation begins on your first day of high school.

**Developing good study habits (get a planner!) and understanding your GPA are two things you can start with on day one.**

## 3. LEARN TO MANAGE YOUR TIME

Time management is crucial in high school and beyond. As the year progresses and your school work and extracurricular responsibilities grow, it will be easy to lose track of time. You can ease the mental load by creating a schedule for how you want your day to go.

## 4. PICK FUN ELECTIVES

Find something that gets you excited! Elective classes like photography, dance, and journalism offer you a chance to do something you love and earn credits.

## 5. BE PRESENT

This is a given, but make sure you go to all of your classes and try to minimize the number of days you don't go to school. Class lectures are completely different from what you learn in a textbook. Reading a textbook and solving the questions for homework is the first step, but going to class and visually seeing how the teacher got the answer is incredibly helpful.

## 6. CHALLENGE YOURSELF

You might want to get through high school as quickly and easily as possible, but you will sell yourself short if you do. Challenge yourself to try new things and to find work that pushes you as a student. Instead of taking a regular science class, challenge yourself with an honors course. Practicing tackling things that seem hard will benefit you in college and beyond.

## 7. GET INVOLVED

One of the best ways to create new friendships and explore your interests is by joining clubs, sports or other extracurricular activities. Don't be afraid to try something new! The years will fly by, so don't waste any time. Start exploring right away.

## MASTERY SCHOOLS CREATED THIS GUIDE.

Mastery serves more than 14,000 K-12 students at 24 schools in Philadelphia and Camden, New Jersey.

Mastery has seven high schools. Here are a few of their offerings:



*The*  
**STEM  
HONORS  
PROGRAM**



Mastery's  
**CLASS OF 2019**  
was awarded more than  
**\$18 MILLION**  
in scholarships



**EXTRACURRICULAR**  
programs and  
**AWARD-WINNING**  
sports teams



**SOPHOMORES  
COMPLETE AN  
INTERNSHIP**  
and gain valuable  
work experience



**AP CLASSES and  
DUAL ENROLLMENT**  
to earn  
**COLLEGE  
CREDIT**



**COLLEGE  
TRIPS  
and  
ACT PREP**

“We are like family here. We’re like sisters and brothers. I am happy to wake up every morning and come to school”  
- Mastery student

“The teachers at Mastery care. They push me.”  
- Mastery student

“The teachers actually take the time to help you, unlike other schools where they just give you the work and let you do it. At Mastery, the teachers will give you one-on-one time until you get it.”  
- Mastery student



**Mastery Schools**

To learn more, visit:  
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