



CCMR

**A Comprehensive Guide to High School
Success and Postsecondary Readiness at
Etoile Academy Charter School**

Dear Etoile Academy Middle School Students and Parents:

A student must consider many factors when thinking about their future: personal talents and interests, required coursework and training, labor market demands, awareness of college and career options, interpersonal skill development, and family and lifestyle goals are just a few examples. We believe that learning empowers students to put these factors together to reach their full potential, reach their goals, and achieve their definition of success. Students have many options for high-demand, livable-wage jobs through a wide range of continued education and career development paths, but knowing where to start or what happens next can be a challenge to navigate as workforce and postsecondary education choices continue to evolve.

Our middle school charter school offers a comprehensive financial literacy curriculum that covers essential topics such as career, college, and military options for students. The curriculum includes a specific unit on financial planning for college and career success, providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions about their future. The curriculum is designed to be engaging and age-appropriate, ensuring that students are able to understand and apply the concepts they learn. By providing this education at a young age, we aim to equip our students with the financial knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the future.

In addition to our middle school curriculum, we also offer a high school seminar class that further explores financial literacy and its real-world applications. This class provides students with the opportunity to delve deeper into topics such as money management, savings, investing, and credit and debit. By building on the foundation laid in middle school, the seminar class aims to ensure that students are well-prepared to make sound financial decisions as they transition into adulthood.

The College, Career, and Military Readiness program focuses on enhancing initiatives to prepare students for success after middle school. Our Social Workers and Alumni Coordinator are available to provide support and guidance as our students explore and plan for life after middle school, particularly in postsecondary planning.

ATTRIBUTES OF AN ETOILE ACADEMY GRADUATE

Etoile Academy continuously plans ahead to determine the best ways to prepare students for the future

TEA's CCMR Indicators

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) lists ways high school students can demonstrate readiness for college, career, and military endeavors after high school. Rather than being required for high school graduation, the CCMR criteria exist in part to provide students with indications that they are prepared for college and the world of work.

Middle school students and parents may use the [list](#) to understand and plan for ways to meet CCMR benchmarks and readiness criteria. School counselors meet with students yearly to select the courses that will best prepare them to meet their graduation and postsecondary goals and are an excellent resource for postsecondary planning



COLLEGE READINESS

HELP YOUR CHILD START PLANNING NOW

Saving and Paying for College

There are many ways to save and pay for college, and knowing availability and requirements ahead of time will help parents and students prepare.

Completing the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) or the [Texas Application for State Financial Aid](#) (TASFA) will be a state graduation requirement during the 2021-2022 school year for high school seniors. Completing the FAFSA or TASFA can open many different doors to affording college. For students who are Citizens or Permanent Residents of the United States, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available. For undocumented students without a social security number, the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) is available. Both applications are available beginning October 1st of senior year.

The FAFSA is completed online and the TASFA is usually completed by downloading a PDF file and completing the paper copy. TASFA format varies depending on the college. There is no fee for either application.

Both the FAFSA and TASFA allow students to access four types of financial aid:

- Scholarships: awarded money that is based on need, merit, or achievement that does not have to be repaid
- Grants: awarded money often based on monetary need that does NOT have to be repaid as long as students meet the minimum requirements for enrollment, credit, and GPA
- Work Study: Students who demonstrate financial need may be eligible to work jobs generally on campus for limited hours
- Loans: Money is borrowed and must be repaid with interest

Parents should know that accurate and timely filing of taxes can impact their children's eligibility for financial aid. Applications require reporting of tax information for the "prior, prior year," meaning that applications for students entering college in the fall of 2021 will ask students and their parents for tax information for the year 2019. It is important that taxes are filed to prevent issues with financial aid awards. For families or individuals without earnings, financial aid applications will ask additional questions to determine students'

funding needs. High school counselors and CCMR deans are able to assist parents with financial aid applications and hold many assistance events each year so that families have the support they need to complete the applications.

The [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#) (THECB) provides leadership and coordination for Texas higher education and strives to promote access, affordability, quality, success, and cost efficiency of education after high school (postsecondary education). THECB is another resource that provides Texas residents with more in-depth information about federal and state financial aid opportunities and requirements.

Texas universities may offer the [Toward EXcellence Access and Success](#) (TEXAS) Grant, which can be more than \$5,000 per year, to eligible students. Completing college admissions applications and financial aid applications early is important for the opportunity to receive TEXAS Grant awards. Priority is given to applicants who complete the FAFSA and apply before January 15th of their senior year. Students must meet the academic standards set by their college or university to receive awards, and the financial aid office of the college will notify students of eligibility. Please visit the THECB College for All Texans website for general [eligibility requirements](#) and contact the financial aid office of your university early to determine how you may confirm your application for the TEXAS Grant.

COLLEGE READINESS

HOW TO START BUILDING SKILLS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

About the PSAT

Students all across the U.S. take part in PSAT assessments each fall. The [PSAT](#) is important because it measures student learning as it relates to future success in college and career. The PSAT can show students whether they are on track to be ready for college, according to the current grade level expectations. CFB students will take the PSAT during their 9th grade year. 8th-grade AVID classes may take the PSAT in 8th grade.

What Can I Do Now to Prepare?

A great way to be prepared for the PSAT in 9th grade is to work on grade level and to strengthen skills in middle school. [Khan Academy](#) offers free practice tests and individualized tutorials to help students master the skills he or she has not yet mastered. Students can register for an account and use the site without charge. Parents can help their middle schoolers register for accounts and set practice schedules to help their children see how repeated targeted practice over time can increase achievement

Mathematics: Measures mathematical fluency in problem-solving, understanding of operations, and application of math concepts. The primary focus is on algebra, problem-solving data analysis, and complex equations. Questions are multiple-choice or grid-in answers. There is a section for calculator use and one without.

The best preparation for PSAT assessments includes:

- **Rigor:** Take challenging courses each semester
- **Discipline:** Study, read, and complete homework each week
- **Preparation:** Prepare for class, tests, and quizzes daily; practice on [Khan Academy](#)
- **Participation:** Take an active part in class discussions and projects

Score reports provide students with a summary analysis regarding areas of strength and areas of needed improvement before taking the SAT and going to college. The report is comprehensive enough to allow students to see exactly how they performed on specific questions and objectives and provides a benchmark to gauge college readiness after high school.

Writing and Language: Language measures the expression of ideas regarding a passage's organization and impact. Writing measures practical skills of proofreading and correcting passages for mistakes or improving passages or word choice. It also measures standard English conventions of grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure. Multiple choice questions are based on a single sentence, narrative passage, or graphic.

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Preparation.

Test Structure

The [PSAT](#), like the [SAT](#), is designed to measure learning and the application of learning. The test is divided into 2 main sections: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Mathematics.

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MILITARY READINESS

TOOLS FOR SUCCESS WITH NO OBLIGATION TO JOIN THE MILITARY

Military Branches

The [United States Department of Defense](#) oversees the military forces needed to ensure our nation's security. With nearly 3 million service members and civilians, the Department of Defense (DoD) is our country's largest employer.

Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)

[The Reserve Officer Training Corps](#) (ROTC) is a college program offered at more than 1,700 colleges and universities across the United States that prepares students to become officers in the US Military. Students (cadets) who participate in the ROTC commit to serve in the Military after graduation and receive a paid college education. Program requirements and eligibility vary by branch of service.

The Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard are the branches of the armed forces of the United States. The National Guard (Army National Guard and the Air National Guard) are reserve components of their branches and operate in part under state authority.

[Army](#): The Army is the largest and oldest branch of the service and provides ground forces that protect the U.S.

[Marine Corps](#): The Marine Corps is a component of the U.S. Navy and provides amphibious and ground units for security and combat operations.

[Navy](#): The Navy is deployed globally, providing the U.S. peacetime protection and wartime force on, above, and below the water.

[Air Force](#): The Air Force provides rapid, lethal air service and protection for the U.S. around the globe.

[Coast Guard](#): The Coast Guard provides maritime safety enforcement, marine and environmental protection, and military naval support. In peacetime, the Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland Security, and in wartime is under the Department of the Navy.

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[Space Force](#): The Space Force was established within the Department of the Air Force and organizes, trains, and equips space forces in order to protect U.S. and allied interests in space and to provide space capabilities to the joint force.

[National Guard](#): Comprised of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard, the National Guard supports combat missions, domestic emergencies, humanitarian efforts, homeland security, and more.

“It is our goal to prepare our students for life after Etoile Academy”

RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE AREA

Charters:

- ◆ [KIPP Houston High](#)
- ◆ [KIPPConnect](#)
- ◆ [KIPP Sharpstown College Prep](#)
- ◆ [YES Prep Gulfton Secondary](#)
- ◆ [YES Prep Brays Oak Secondary](#)
- ◆ [YES Prep West Secondary](#)
- ◆ [Harmony Science Academy](#)

Private Schools (Scholarships Available):

- ◆ [Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School of Houston](#)
- ◆ [Duchesne Academy Private Catholic All Girls School Houston](#)
- ◆ [St Johns](#)
- ◆ [St. Agnes Private Catholic All Girls School Houston](#)
- ◆ [Strake Jesuit College Preparatory School Catholic All Boy School Houston](#)

Early Colleges:

- ◆ [Challenge Early College](#)
- ◆ [South Early College](#)
- ◆ [Empowerment Early College Academy](#)

HISD Magnet Schools:

- ◆ [Debakey High School for Health Professionals](#)
- ◆ [Carnegie Vanguard High School](#)
- ◆ [Bellaire High School](#)
- ◆ [Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual arts](#)
- ◆ [Energy Institute High School](#)