

Back-to-school inspiration!

Advice to get you started on a great school year

Congratulations to Crusaders on starting a brand new school year! The fall season is always a great time to begin again and to form new habits that will help you succeed in school. We have filled this issue of *CruNews* with lots of inspiring advice for getting the most from your educational opportunities.

Look inside for more advice from your Crusade Advisors!

Top tips for high school

Set up a home workstation for studying. Get yourself a desk and a comfortable chair. Find a place with good lighting and plenty of quiet. Keep your desk neat and organized with all the supplies you need. Design your study schedule and stick with it, especially if you have a job or other after-school commitments. You can get it all done if you keep a regular schedule.

Speak up when you have a question. Don't be afraid to seek out help or to stick your hand up if you don't understand something in class. Maybe everyone is wondering the same thing!

Map your school for resources. Find out what resources your school has and take advantage of them. There are many people in your school who are there to support you, including your Crusade Advisor.

Take advantage of Crusade tutoring and homework clubs. You can get tutoring and homework help after school in a quiet spot with other Crusaders. Set a goal to improve your grades this year!



Xavier Lopez explores safety equipment onboard ship during a middle school college visit to Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Top tips for middle school

Ask for help when you need it. This is the single most important thing for every Crusader to learn. If you need help in one of your subjects, go to your teacher, your guidance counselor, or your principal. If you don't know who to go to, remember that your Crusade Advisor is always there to help!

Sit at a different lunch table every day. If you don't have assigned seating in your cafeteria, you can get to know a lot of new people at lunch. Try making plans with a friend to meet at lunch.

Get involved in afterschool activities. Do you like sports or music and art? Do you have hobbies you can share with friends? Find out how you can participate in fun activities after school.

Use your school planner to stay organized. Remember to write down all your assignments in your planner. Tell your parent about your homework every day.

Inspire.

Support.

Believe.

Thank You:

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Inside:

Lots of great back-to-school advice, straight from your College Crusade Advisors! Special advice for parents, too.

On the web:

Crusaders were busy learning new things all summer long. CruBlog has the scoop! Go to www.thecollegecrusade.org/blog.

For parents:

Our parent survey is on its way to you. Please be sure to fill it out completely and return it to us. The information you supply will help us better serve your Crusader!

★ Top tips for parents inside!



A message from the President

Dear Crusaders,

Every school year brings change, and with change comes new opportunity. You have a fresh opportunity this year to take steps toward making school count. Stay organized around your homework and assignments. Take your books home with you whenever you can.

Doing well in school means hard work. Plain and simple. Start now to develop the desire to excel at things that don't necessarily come easy. Ask family members to support and encourage you. Participate in College Crusade programs that will inspire and equip you to become a better student.

Because that's what it's all about. School offers you many ways to learn and grow. One of your goals should be to acquire the skills that will help you pursue a postsecondary education and a meaningful career. A good job will lead you toward a bright future. Always keep that goal in mind, and work hard to reach it.

Sincerely yours,

Todd D. Florenty

Interim President & CEO

Middle school Crusaders: Save these dates!

- **January 23:** Step Up Conference for 8th graders
- **Feb 15-19, school vacation week:** Exchange City for 6th graders, and URI "Shadow Day" college visit for 7th & 8th graders

Middle school Crusaders: What your Advisors say about going back to school...

“Here’s a bit of free advice! **Get your rest!** Make sure you obtain a full night’s sleep and lay off the Xbox 360. Get enough rest so that you can be alert and ready to take on the new day. Allow yourself enough time in the morning to eat breakfast, and dress appropriately. Follow my advice and you’ll have a great school year.” – **Stephen Herrera**, *Woonsocket Middle School*

“Afterschool programs give you a **place to learn** and discover your own successes. Take time to discover your talents and to explore possibilities!” – **Kristina Moyet**, *Roger Williams Middle School*

“Start your year off with the **right attitude.** Stay positive, don’t be nervous, and SMILE! Learn and practice all school rules. Participate in school programs, and ask your teachers, principals, and Crusade Advisors for any help that you may need.” – **Ranika Spiver**, *Gilbert Stuart Middle School*

“Wise words for all students this **academic year** would be to become accustomed to a positive self-esteem, maintain an open mind and heart before opening your mouth, gain confidence through positive encounters with influential people, and study hard. Manage your time well, do not procrastinate, and prioritize to the best of your abilities. My last bit of advice is: Whenever in doubt, ask questions!” – **Harry Moore**, *Bridgham Middle School*

“Be more organized. Try to take baby steps to set up a plan that works for you to achieve this goal. Ask your teachers and anyone else who you consider helpful about what you can do to stay organized this year.” – **Huascar Beato**, *Calcutt Middle School, Calcutt Too, Segue Institute for Learning*

“Ask questions whenever you are not sure of something. Come see me, and I’ll help you find answers. As your Advisor, I am here to help you with any of your concerns.” – **Javier Cabreja**, *Nathanael Greene Middle School*

“Welcome back to school, **Crusaders!** This year is filled with new and exciting things from teachers, principals, friends, and schools. Do not be overwhelmed. The key is to ask questions whenever you feel lost. Get yourself familiarized with what’s around you. Take advantage of all the activities and programs after school. You can never do enough for yourself.” – **Jennifer Rivera**, *Nathanael Greene Middle School, Slater Junior High School*

“Hi, Crusaders! As you begin this new school year, I want you to remember the reason you come to school. Please come ready to learn and to challenge yourself. The future is yours if you prepare yourself with a good education. Friends, teachers, and your Advisor are all here to help you if you need anything. Have fun and participate in as many Crusade activities as you can.” – **Mayamu Kamara**, *Perry Middle School, Times² Academy*

“Make this year both fun and **productive.** Take your studies seriously and get involved. Join the afterschool programs offered in your schools and community. If you are having trouble in a subject, take advantage of the tutoring services at your school as soon as possible. Ask for help early rather than waiting until you fall behind.” – **Ama Akoto**, *Esek Hopkins Middle School, DelSesto Middle School*



Jennifer Alvarez and Kayla Batista compare notes on their crime scene analysis during a forensics workshop at Wheeler Summer Camp in July.

“Remember what Thoreau said: ‘Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you’ve imagined.’ And remember this further insight from an anonymous writer: ‘The key to happiness is having dreams. The key to success is making your dreams come true.’”
– Jessica Rivera, Central Falls High School

“Over your lifetime, a college degree can provide you with more career options, a higher income, and better decision-making skills. These are all important in our changing and complex world. Studies show that the earlier a student begins preparing for college, the more likely he or she is to attend college and succeed. Your future is in your hands, so take advantage of your opportunities today.”
– Kalomo Vanterpool, Hope High School

“Use your resources within the school and community. They are there to help you, not hurt you. Take ownership in yourself. Be responsible for your actions. Know the rules and abide by them. If you have trouble with academics, take initiative: ask your teacher for help or seek out tutoring or homework assistance. I don’t believe in excuses because we all have obstacles that stand in our way and try to knock us down. It takes a strong person to face obstacles head on, with the determination to overcome them.” – Dwayne Clement, Mount Pleasant High School

“Be proactive in your own life and take responsibility. Never forget that your decisions are what determine your destiny. Ultimately, the path you walk in this life is the one that you create. Choose wisely.” – Alexis Brown, Classical High School

High school Crusaders: Get your advice here...

“Education is the key to success. The hard part is matching the key to the right door. Strive to explore each school subject thoroughly, because this will help you in your career choice and ultimately shape your future.”
– Anibal Perez, Alvarez High School & Feinstein High School

“If you are having a problem or not understanding something in class, come and see me as early as possible. Maybe all you need to do is talk with your teacher about your question or attend a few tutoring sessions. The faster I can get you help, the more likely it is that you will be able to improve.” – Tanzeem Ajmiri, Shea High School, Tolman High School, Blackstone Academy

“Anything worth doing is worth doing right. Don’t be afraid of hard work. Figuring out answers to problems helps your brain grow! If you’re comfortable, it means you’re not growing. Step outside your comfort zone.”
– Benjamin Ramos, Central High School

“Keep your priorities straight this year. Put your education first. If you manage your time well from the beginning, then you’ll stay on track.” – Ralph Toribio, Woonsocket High School



(Clockwise from left) Eduardo Garcia, Gerwin Senna, and Luis Costa focus on drafts of their writing during a high school workshop on Media Literacy in August.

Find out what college is like... Go on a visit!

High school Crusaders! Here is our schedule for college visits this fall. Get in touch with us today to find out more and sign up!

- **November 12:** Northeastern University
- **November 17:** University of Rhode Island
- **December 2:** Providence College
- **December 8:** Roger Williams University

★ Top Tips for Parents

Set ground rules for your children. Make sure they know when to wake up, when to be ready for school, when to do homework, and so on. Also make sure they know you expect them to do their best in school.

Be aware of homework and school demands. Keep track of your children’s homework assignments and deadlines. Check their homework, but don’t do it for them!

Monitor your children’s progress in school. Keep track of tests and grades so you can address any possible problems or issues before they get too large.

Check for the right high school course schedule. During high school, your children must take specific courses in each grade in order to be prepared for college. Help them enroll in the right classes.

Talk to your children about how to behave. Make sure they understand how you expect them to behave in school. Teach them how to treat other people with respect.

Reinforce good behavior. Reward your children when they make good choices and decisions.

Support your children when they fail. Remind them that mistakes are an important part of learning.

Expose your children to new experiences. Help them explore a variety of new interests and encourage them to think about making plans for the future.



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High school Crusaders attending our **Crusade Summer Experience 2009** program pose for a photo on the Brown University campus in July. A total of 122 high school Crusaders participated in CSE this summer, working together to develop their leadership, team-building, and project-planning skills.

Please keep us notified

Have you changed your address or phone number, or has your Crusader changed schools? Call (401) 854-5500 or write to info@thecollegecrusade.org.