



A program of The Ophelia J. Berry Fund, Inc.

## The Scholar Newsletter

Get With the Program!

Fall 2008

Introductory Issue

### Using Your Pathways to College Student Planner



One of the most important things to remember as you go through high school (and life) is that getting organized can help you make the most of your time and opportunities. Your Pathways to College *Student Planner* is all about helping you help yourself plan, manage time, set goals and be accountable. What you're about to read is no joke. So, find some quiet, uninterrupted time to read this entire newsletter. Have these two books next to you as you read: your planner, and your copy of *Pathways to College: An Explorer's Guide*.

### Setting Your Goals

Check out your planner. Review the Pathways to College pledge (page 5 in the front section) and go back to it often. **Memorize numbers 1 and 2 this month.** Then read pages 2 and 3, "A Teens Life Isn't Easy," in the main body of the planner. **Set goals for the week, the month, and the year. Write them down.** Use the space on the left side of each monthly calendar to record your weekly

goals. Use the *Notes* pages in the front section of the planner to write your monthly and yearly goals.



### KEY IDEA #1:

Remember what a goal is:

- **It is a definition** of what you want to achieve and when you want to achieve it.
- **It has a result** over which you've got some control.
- **It can be measured.**
- **It can be achieved** by taking action.

### Writing Your Goals Makes You Own Them

**Write your goals** in your planner! It'll help you develop the steps and timetable you need to achieve them.

**Share your goals** with your best friend, your favorite teacher or a supportive family member! They'll help you remember what you're saying you'll do.

**Check your progress** every week, every month, or even every day. That'll help you know if you're on point or if your action plan needs switching up.

Changing your action plan may mean you've got to flip the script on your priorities. Are they out of order? Think about what's REALLY most important. Should you change the way you study? Should you turn off the radio or TV? Do you need to spend more time working on your hardest subject? What about those phone calls that might be interrupting your study time?

This planner will help you become better organized. It will also help you to decide what's most important, and help you handle your business.



### KEY IDEA #2:

**You can learn to be more productive! Just plan your work, and then work the plan!**

### More Ways to Use

#### Your Pathways to College Books

You'll find helpful information, tips for success, motivational quotes and activities throughout the planner. Besides writing down your goals,

- **write down all your appointments, classes, and assignments for each week. Start on the first day you get your planner.**
- **use pages R-4 and R-5 to keep track of your progress.**
- **check out the study and testing strategies on pages R-1 and R-2.**
- **take writing suggestions on pages R-6.**
- **peep the valuable reference material on pages R-7 to R-24.**

Now, turn to *Pathways to College: An Explorer's Guide* we sent you earlier.

Pages 14-17 will also help you to be the best student you can be.

### Where Will You Handle Your Business?

Pick a place -- any place -- that makes studying work for you. You'll need good lighting, minimal noise, a writing surface and NO TV. You can pick your bedroom -- but not on your bed, where you'll want to sleep -- the kitchen table or anyplace else free of distraction and where you can use your "tools." Think about what you need: pencils, pens, erasers, staples, scissors, paper clips, etc. Keep them all together in your work space or in a box you can take where you're working.

### It's All About You!

**So, who are you?** Tell us about yourself - and send us your photograph! Share your goals, your dreams, your ambitions and your concerns with us - by e-mail or snail mail - so we can get to know you. We'll feature as many Scholars as we can in each newsletter. BUT if you send comments on the down low you don't want us to share with anyone else, that's cool, too. Just let us know. We've got your back.

Send your photo and anything else you want to share. Here's the address:

Pathways to College  
Two Old Quarry Road  
Englewood, NJ 07631

-OR-

[questions@pathwaystocollege.org](mailto:questions@pathwaystocollege.org)

**NOTE: Make sure the photo you send isn't your only copy. We can't return photos. Holler!**