When it is time to begin high School, there are many things to know. Some things can be heard from parents, friends, middle school teachers, counselors, or maybe even older siblings. One thing that is very important to know is that every ones’ high school experience is different. There are many factors that contribute to the high school experience, whether it be friends, classes, teachers or the school its self, there is something about high school that makes being a high schooler different for everyone. There is some advice I would like to offer to someone that is just beginning their high school career.

 The first thing I want to talk about is freshman year. Despite what people say about junior year being the most important freshman year is the absolute most important year of high school. Freshman year is where a lot of students mess up. Some students mess up so badly it takes the next three years to make up for it. Sometimes the freedom that is offered in high school is too much for certain students to handle. They start skipping class, going to in school suspension, fighting, getting out of school suspension, and some even go to alternative school. All these things cripple a student’s GPA and set them off track for graduating on time or graduating at all, and this makes it harder to get accepted to the college they want to attend. Some students just beginning their high school career do not know that if you fail a class freshman year they still must pass that class to graduate. This mean they will either must go to summer school, take the class the following year with the next upcoming class, or take it their senior year.

 The next thing I want to talk about is friends. Friends are one of the most important aspects of high school. More importantly, having the right kind of friends. It is very important to have friends that will not bring their other friends down. It is okay not to have a lot of friends because a friend that is no good is the same as not having a friend at all. Having a few friends who will not get anyone in trouble and is focused on their work is better than having a lot of friends that only play around and do not do any work. It is important to have friends that encourage everyone to do their best work and not drag everyone down.

 The last thing I want to talk about is extracurricular activities. I encourage everyone to do extracurricular activities if possible. There are a couple of reasons I encourage this. The first is colleges want students who do more than just get good grades. They want students who do extracurricular activities in high school, so they can do them for their college. Extracurricular activities are fun, and they are a great way to make new friends and interact with other people. There is something for everyone, whether it be sports, academic bowl, math club, or BETA club, etc. There are a lot of options to chose from, and they make high school better. They also give you a way to focus on more than just school work.

 I could go on forever about things that are important to know when beginning high school, but I thought these where some of the most important things to know. High school is about more than just having fun and going to parties. If someone who is just beginning their high school career does not know that then they will have a hard time trying to graduate. These are some things I think will help someone just beginning high school to not get distracted from what their main goal should be.