

## **8 WAYS TO BE A SUCCESSFUL 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADER:**

1. Get **acquainted with your counselor** and don't be afraid to ask him/her anything.
2. **Join something.** Join a club; try out for a sport; sign up for marching band, chorus or color guard. This will help you find friends who share your interests.
3. Don't change yourself to fit in. **Be yourself** and you will eventually find students who share your same interests.
4. **Be prepared** for situations that might happen. Think about what you will do or say if someone offers you a cigarette, alcohol or drugs.
5. **Stay connected** to your parent(s). They seem old fashioned, out of touch, and not cool, but they've already been where you are. Most important – they care about you!
6. Expect that you will have to **work hard**. Nothing worthwhile comes easy.
7. Keep yourself **balanced**. You need to have time for fun and time for work.
8. If you run into a problem, **talk to your counselor**. Your friends may not always give you the best advice.