

From Crayons to College – Cultivating What Students Need To Be Ready

By Barbara and Kaitlyn Gruener

- A – Attitude.** Stay positive. Whether you think you can or you can't, you're right.
- B – Behavior.** Behave with discipline, wisdom and self-control.
- C – Cooperation.** Communicate, collaborate, and cooperate. None of us is as smart as all of us.
- D – Determination.** Set goals and see them through with tenacity and drive.
- E – Effort.** Give 100% in everything you do.
- F – Family.** Let family and friends be there for you. A support system is a valuable asset.
- G – Good Grades.** Achieve academically. Grade point average (GPA) determines class rank.
- H – Honor.** Reach for your dreams with dignity and honor.
- I – Initiative.** Get a jumpstart on your work; you know what they say about the early bird.
- J – Judgment.** Use good judgment; it'll help you minimize mistakes and fix them more easily.
- K – Knowledge.** Take challenging classes. The more you know, the stronger you grow.
- L – Leadership.** Lead by example; make tracks worth following.
- M – Morals.** Let your conscience be your guide, even when nobody's looking.
- N – Nutrition.** Eat well. A healthy body = a healthy mind.
- O – Organization.** Get it together. Your stuff won't be helpful if you don't know where it is.
- P – Perseverance.** Keep going; persist with your purpose even when there are problems.
- Q – Quality.** Stamp a quality assurance guarantee on everything you do.
- R – Responsibility.** Show up on time, make choices carefully, and do what you're supposed to do.
- S – Study Skills.** Sharpen important navigation tools for school and life by learning how to learn.
- T – Time Management.** Use a planner. You've got all the time you need when you manage it well.
- U – Understanding.** Listen, hear and reflect to understand. Communicate well to be understood.
- V – Volunteerism.** Lend a helping hand with a servant heart. What goes around comes around.
- W – Work Ethic.** Work hard and it'll pay off in ways you can't even imagine.
- X – eXcellence.** Pursue excellence in everything; it will set you apart.
- Y – Yearning.** Yearn to learn something new every day. You've got to want it to get it.
- Z – Zeal.** Race toward your degree (and your career) with all you've got.

NOTE: We created this list as Kaitlyn journeyed through the college-application process. It is by no means exhaustive; what quality ingredients will you use in your recipe for college readiness?