



WHITE PASS GEAR UP NEWSLETTER



High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

GEAR UP Advisor Maureen Foley mfoley@whitepass.k12.wa.us

WHY EDUCATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

Options! Students have many options after high school, such as apprenticeships, on-the-job training programs, community college certificates, two-year degrees, four-year degrees, and more.

New experiences, people, and places! Whether your teen goes to a nearby community college, a state school a few hours away, or a private school in another state, they can meet new people and pursue subjects that interest them.

Money. Education pays! College graduates earn 60 percent more than high school graduates, and those with advanced degrees earn two to three times as much. Jobs that require a college degree are also more likely to have benefits and retirement plans.

Independence. Students control the classes they want to take and how

NINTH GRADE MATTERS

Ninth grade is a crucial year for students both academically and socially. Freshman year is essential in deciding whether a student drops out or stays in school. The transition from middle school can be challenging—more complex classes with higher stakes, new social pressures, changing friend groups, and a desire to assert independence and become one's own person.

High school is a new environment with a lot more freedom and more homework. It is not uncommon to see a drop in grades. The possibility of developing bad habits such as skipping class can also grow, especially if a student is struggling.

Three signs—attendance, behavior, and course performance—are believed to be the most accurate ways to predict the likelihood of either quitting or completing school.

The most significant risk factor for failing ninth grade is the number of absences during the first 30 days. Missing more than ten percent is cause for concern. First-year high-school students are 'on track' if they earn at least five full-year course credits and have received no more than one F per semester. Students who fail more than one core class in their freshman year are more likely to drop out of high school without graduating.

How is your child doing? Supporting your teen through this important year is critical. Share ways to beat the beginning high school blues with your teen, like going to school (if you're not in class, you can't learn!), getting involved in school activities and clubs, asking for help if you need it, and having older students and adults serve as mentors.

they spend their time.

Discover passions. Students can get involved on campus with student clubs, athletics, and community service.

Job security and satisfaction.

Individuals with college degrees are more likely to have and keep their jobs and have lower unemployment rates than those with only a high school degree. In addition, having a college degree gives individuals more jobs to choose from and the opportunity to select an exciting and meaningful career.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*National GEAR UP Week:
September 22-26*

*After School Tutoring begins Tuesday 7th
and will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays
3-4:30pm with transportation and snack
available*



DID YOU KNOW?

By 9th grade, regular attendance predicts graduation rates better than 8th-grade test scores.

High School & Beyond Planning

Ninth Grade | Autumn Edition | gearup.wa.gov

WHY VISIT A COLLEGE CAMPUS?

Finding a good fit is crucial in deciding which college to attend. A great way to get more information is to visit the colleges in person.

Campus visits can help students and families see the possibilities beyond high school and their community. They can also help ease the concerns and anxieties of students and families, especially for students who would be the first in their families to go to college.

A campus visit is your opportunity to get a firsthand view of a college. A college catalog, brochure, or website can only show you so much. To get a feel for the college, you must walk around the campus, sit in on a class, and visit the dorms.

Students will have multiple opportunities to visit campuses, including those for two- and four-year schools. In middle school, your teen can look broadly at options. As your child ages, campus visits should target their specific interests. When teens get a chance to visit college campuses, they often can begin to envision themselves there.

STUDENT CHECKLIST

- ☐ Update your High School and Beyond Plan.
- ☐ Enroll in and pass a foreign language class and Algebra I.
- ☐ Ask your school counselor or teachers what dual credit courses are available, whether you are eligible, and how to enroll in them.
- ☐ Have your family members work with your teachers and school counselors to get you on the path to college.
- ☐ Get involved. Find something you like doing, and then dive into it.
- ☐ Participate in study skills and tutoring activities.

MYTHBUSTER

MYTH: Your child can't get into a selective college if they did poorly in ninth and tenth grade.

REALITY: Colleges look for improvement in performance as a sign that your child can and will do the work.

A vast improvement as a junior and senior indicates to a college

FAMILY CHECKLIST

- ☐ Make sure your child meets with the school counselor. Your child should schedule a meeting to discuss college and career options and choose the most appropriate classes.
- ☐ Ensure your teen takes challenging classes like a foreign language and algebra.
- ☐ Help your child set goals for the school year. Working toward specific goals helps your child stay motivated and focused.
- ☐ Talk about extracurricular activities. Getting involved in clubs and other groups is an excellent way for your child to identify interests and feel more engaged in school.
- ☐ Learn about the different types of financial aid, including the Washington Grant.
- ☐ Plan to check in regularly about schoolwork. Encourage your child to participate in class and turn in homework on time. Find out about your child's grades, assignments, and attendance on the school's online system (like Skyward). If you don't know how to access this system, contact your child's counselor for assistance.

that a student has settled down and is serious about school.

However, your teen shouldn't expect to catch up for three poor years in one good semester as a senior.

