



WHITE PASS GEAR UP NEWSLETTER



High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

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WELCOME TO MIDDLE SCHOOL!

Middle school is a time of emotional, physical, social, and academic changes. Your child is learning and developing skills that will make it easier to adjust to the challenges of high school and beyond.

Research shows that teens do better in school when their families are involved in their lives in and out of school. Here are some things you can do to help your child adjust to middle school:

- Discuss any concerns that your child may have before starting middle school.
- Talk to your child about the physical and social changes and social pressures that often occur.
- Encourage your child to take challenging classes. Ask your child's teachers or guidance counselor if these classes will help your child be competitive in high school and beyond.

Also, consider does your child...

- Have good study habits?
- Read what is necessary to complete an assignment?
- Turn in assignments on time?
- Prepare for assignments and tests instead of cramming at the last minute?
- Have the resources to complete assignments or know where to find what is needed?

KEEPING YOUR OPTIONS OPEN

There are many ways to continue education beyond high school. Most family-wage jobs require education or training after high school—just one year of education or training after high school can increase lifetime earnings. On average, college graduates have more jobs to choose from and lower unemployment rates than high school graduates. The type of career your child is interested in pursuing will help determine what kind of degree and school to explore.

Many colleges typically offer four kinds of degrees: two-year (or associate), undergraduate (or bachelor's), graduate (or master's), and doctoral or professional degrees.

For example:

- **Apprenticeship**
A warehouse worker may need an apprenticeship, which can earn them a Journey-Level Certificate and take two years at Bucher Aerospace Corporation in Everett, WA.
- **Community College**
A licensed practical nurse may receive an associate degree at a Community College like South Puget Sound CC.
- **Public or Private 4-Year College or University**
to pursue graphic design, one might want to obtain a bachelor's degree at a 4-Year school such as Central Washington University or Gonzaga University.

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?

Nearly 75 percent of jobs in Washington will require some education beyond high school.

The path to education after high school is diverse and flexible. Students have many options, including but not limited to apprenticeships, on-the-job training programs, community college certificates, two-year degrees, and four-year degrees.

This variety ensures that every student can find a path that suits their interests and goals, instilling confidence in their future.

COLLEGE BOUND

Is your child interested in health care, construction, video game design, or running a business? Whatever their goals, College Bound can help them attend and pay for the right school!

College Bound is an early commitment of state financial aid, like the Washington College Grant, to eligible students who fulfill the College Bound pledge.

College Bound covers average tuition (at public college rates), fees, and a small amount for books at over 65 colleges, universities, and technical schools in Washington.

Am I eligible?

Students who meet one of the following requirements are automatically enrolled in the College Bound program:

- You are in public school and are signed up for free and reduced-price lunch (FRPL) in 7th, 8th, or newly eligible in 9th grade.
- You are in state foster care or a dependent of the state between 7th grade and high school graduation.

How do I know if I am a College Bound student?

You will receive a College Bound certificate in the mail. If you move or change your contact information, keep us updated so you receive important information and updates.

College Bound is a state-funded program administered by the Washington Student Achievement Council.

To learn more, visit www.collegebound.wa.gov, call 888-535-0747 (Option 1), or email collegebound@wsac.wa.gov

STUDENT CHECKLIST

- ☐ Start a calendar to track essential school dates and deadlines.
- ☐ Set easy-to-reach goals.
- ☐ Take challenging and exciting classes to prepare for high school.
- ☐ Think about what you'd like to do when you grow up.
- ☐ Learn about career possibilities.
- ☐ Read something every day: newspapers, blogs, books, or magazines.
- ☐ Talk with your family and your advisor about your goals and dreams.

FAMILY CHECKLIST

- ☐ Set goals. Help your child set goals for the year.
- ☐ Check in. Plan to check in regularly about schoolwork. Regular communication with the school will inform you about your child's progress and allow you to celebrate successes and solve problems as a team. 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.
- ☐ Talk to the school. Attend parent-teacher conferences, open houses, and other events at the school to stay connected with teachers and school staff.
- ☐ 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.

MYTHBUSTER

MYTH: You can't apply for scholarships until senior year.

REALITY: Wrong! You're already three years behind the curve if you wait until senior year to start searching and applying for scholarships.

Many scholarships are open to students 13 years and older (and some even younger!).

Regarding scholarships, there's only one thing you need to remember — the more often you apply, the more chances you have to win.

