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|  | | Eighth Grade | Spring Edition | | | | | | |  | |
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|  | NEWSLETTER TEMPLATEHigh School & Beyond Planning — News & Information | | | | | | | | |  |
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| *Replace with School Contact Info* | | | | | | | | | | |
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| RIGHT CLASSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL  High school is a critical time. If your child wants to attend a four-year or two-year college, they will need to start preparing by working hard in high school, taking rigorous or challenging courses, and getting good grades.  Your teen must pass a certain number of credits in each subject to graduate from high school, BUT there are different requirements to get into college.  When registering for high school classes, ask the school’s counselor how your child can be on track to meet college requirements and what classes are needed.  Some college programs or majors might require or recommend certain classes. For example, if your child is interested in the medical field, they should take as much math and science as possible.  Some high schools offer challenging classes like the following:  **Advanced Placement:** College-level curriculum taught in the high school. Students must receive a satisfactory score on an end-of-year examination to be eligible for college credit at some colleges.  **Running Start/College in the High School:** Students receive high school and college credit for classes. | | |  |  | STAY ON TRACK  High school is fast approaching. One thing to consider is that teenagers tend to live in the moment. Cause and effect are often hard for students to grasp when it relates to high school graduation and college admissions requirements that are still years away. It is essential to talk to teens about how attendance, challenges, failures, grades, and overall credit accumulation in high school will affect their future.  Did you know there are ways to tell if a child is “on-track” or “off-track” for high school graduation? Research has shown that there are some ways to predict when a student is struggling or off-track. For example:  **Attendance:** Missing 20 days or being absent 10 percent of school days.  **Behavior:** Two or more mild or more severe behavior infractions. | **Course performance in high school:**   * a GPA of less than 2.0. * two or more failures in ninth-grade courses. * failure to earn on-time promotion to the tenth grade or accumulate five or more freshmen credits.   Even if there are valid excuses for these symptoms, they hurt school performance and engagement and increase the chances of student dropout.  If your child is showing one or more of these signs, it is essential to step in, find the root causes of the problem, and find a solution that addresses your child's specific needs. For example, you may need to help your child find tutoring or a mentor. School and district staff should be able to help. The most powerful thing a parent or guardian can do to help is get involved. | | | | |
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| UPCOMING EVENTS   * *Click here to enter text.* |  |  | **Graduation cap with solid fill**  DID YOU KNOW?  Students who pass an Advanced Placement (AP) exam are **three times likelier** to complete college than those who do not pass an AP exam. | | |

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| High School & Beyond Planning  Eighth Grade | Spring Edition | gearup.wa.gov | | | | | |
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| MAJORS AND PROFESSIONS: EXPLORING YOUR PASSIONS |  | At most colleges, you don't have to choose a major until the end of your sophomore year, and even then, you can still change your mind.  Help your teen explore the possibilities by asking them:   * What are some things you feel you do well? * What challenges you? * What do you like to do for fun? * What is something you always wanted to try? * What interests you? * What is your favorite class? * If you could do any job for a day, what would it be?   Also, remember that joining clubs, working, volunteering — and even just talking to people — can help your teen figure out what interests them. You never know; these activities might lead to your child’s dream job. | | | |
| A major is a specific subject area that students specialize in during college. Students should choose a major and take courses in areas that appeal to and motivate them. Many majors prepare students to enter a range of careers after graduation.  For many students, picking a college major is not the same as choosing a job. It will be up to them to pick a career path they like. For example, a degree in English literature might lead you to a job in publishing, teaching, advertising, public relations, or law, among other fields. |
| STUDENT CHECKLIST   * Talk with your parents, guardians, or friends about taking challenging classes in subjects you are interested in. * Schedule a meeting with your counselor or teacher about what classes are right for you. * Take a trip over to the high school to tour the campus. * Explore your interests, research possible career pathways, and what kind of education you need. * Think about ways you might be able to get hands-on experience in a field you like. Explore volunteer opportunities, sports, and more. | | |  |  | MYTHBUSTER  **MYTH:** Challenging classes like Advanced Placement or AP courses are too stressful.  **REALITY:** It is no secret that AP courses are challenging.  Students must be committed and work hard. However, they also get support from classmates and teachers, who can help ease their worries.  Plus, by taking AP classes, your child can:   * Stand out in college admissions. * Earn college credit. * Skip introductory classes. * Build college skills.   Are you interested in having your child take a dual credit course? Talk to a teacher or counselor about next steps. |
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| FAMILY CHECKLIST   * Encourage your teen to think about taking challenging classes in high school. Ask about homework, tests, and other assignments to stay connected. * Talk to teachers and staff. Talk to your child’s counselor about high school class selections. Ensure your child is on track to progress from middle to high school on time. * Help your child plan for the classes they need to take each year in high school to pursue their dreams after high school. Review class selections. * Tour the high school with your child. * Continue to help your teen explore careers and interests. Talk to your teen about the activities they are interested in—it doesn’t have to be sports or an academically related club. | | |