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|  | Ninth Grade | Summer 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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| **SUMMER SLIDE**Research shows that students lose up to two months’ worth of reading and math skills over the summer! Help your teen stay on track this summer with these four suggestions:**Summer Learning Programs**. Check out camps and programs at the school, library, or community. Many colleges and universities also offer day or residential programs. Scholarships are usually available.**Volunteer Opportunities, Internships, and Job Shadowing** are great ways for students to get a taste of a career experience while adding activities to their college applications.**Summer Jobs.** A summer job builds work ethic and skills, even just mowing lawns. Set up a college savings plan that your student can contribute to each paycheck.**Read!** Whatever students decide to do this summer, encourage them to read. Reading opens students' minds and introduces them to other worlds while sharpening important skills such as comprehension and vocabulary. Have your student join a book club at the local library or start their own with friends. Reading is essential, whether it’s the news, graphic novels, or the latest teen fiction series. |  |  | ***Insert Summer Opportunities***  | * ***Insert Summer Opportunities***
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| UPCOMING EVENTS*Click here to enter text.* |  | Graduation cap with solid fillDID YOU KNOW?Unequal access to summer learning opportunities explains more than half of the achievement gap between lower—and higher-income youth. Find out if your school or community offers summer programming.  |

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| High School & Beyond Planning Ninth Grade | Summer Edition | gearup.wa.gov  |
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| ***Insert Summer Opportunities***  |  | ***Insert Summer Opportunities***  |
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| STUDENT CHECKLIST* Make summer plans. Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities.
* Get involved this summer with camps, programs, volunteering, or even a job. Stick to a (somewhat) regular schedule. Find summer programs, volunteer, or get a job.
* Set up a college savings plan if you haven’t already. Save a percentage of any summer earnings to the account.
 |  |  | MYTHBUSTER**MYTH:** The best time to visit colleges is after admission.**REALITY:** Many students have fallen for this myth only to find that none of the colleges they were admitted "felt" right when they visited.Students must test the waters before choosing the best college to attend. Making a college visit and touring the campus can be key in a student's decision to apply.Don’t wait until your child is a junior or senior to visit campuses. If possible, start exploring campuses now.  |
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| FAMILY CHECKLIST * Help your child make summer plans. Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities.
* This summer, help your child stay involved with camps, programs, volunteering, or even a job. Combat boredom and prevent learning loss by insisting your teen stay on a (somewhat) regular schedule and participate in summer programs, volunteer, or find a job (even mowing lawns or babysitting!)
* Set up a college savings plan if you haven’t already. Talk to your local bank or credit union about setting up a college savings account for your student. Encourage your child to contribute a percentage of summer earnings to the account.
* If possible, visit college campuses while on vacation. If you go on vacation near a college, stop by to walk around and have lunch at a dining hall or near campus. Many schools offer free tours even in summer.
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