

**NOVEMBER FOR FAMILIES OF 9THGRADE STUDENTS**

**STUDENTS**

**White Pass GEAR UP NEWSLETTER**

High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

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Tutoring Center: Tuesdays & Thursdays

3-4:30pm

**Why Visit Colleges?**

A key part of deciding which college to go to is finding a good fit. And a great way to get more information is to visit the colleges in person.

Campus visits can help students and families see the possibilities that exist beyond high school and their community. Plus, they can help ease concerns and anxieties of both students and families, especially for students who would be the first in their family 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 really get a feel for the college, you need to 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 had the chance to have a broad look at options. Now as your child gets older, campus visits should target his or her specific interests. When teens get a chance to visit college campuses, they often can begin to envision themselves there.

*There are no planned campus visits at this time due to Covid. I do however hold virtual campus tours each Thursday during Core/flex for students. November 4th will be University of Washington & November 18th is Walla Walla University. Come to the GEAR UP College and Career Center during your core/flex and view these colleges.*

**COLLEGE BENEFITS GO BEYOND EARNINGS.**

In addition to earning more, college-educated Millennials also have lower unemployment and poverty rates than their less-educated peers. They’re also more likely to be married and less likely to be living in their parent’s home.

**Did You Know?**

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**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

* **No Tutoring October 26th & 28th**
* **College and Career Fair: November 3rd 10-2pm**
* **Tutoring Tuesdays & Thursdays 3-4:30pm**

**Myth Buster**

**Student Checklist**

* **Explore reasons to consider college** and ways you can get help preparing.
* **Talk to your family about how to pay for college.** Most families use a combination of savings, current income and loans. Discuss what works best for your family.
* **Participate in study skills and tutoring activities.**

**Family Checklist**

* **Start thinking about financial aid**. It’s not too early to learn about the types of aid.
* **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.

**MYTH:** Forget the “top” colleges; they’re way too expensive.

**REALITY**: Harvard, Yale, Stanford, and Princeton all have “sticker prices” in excess of $60,000 a year.

Students who attend these and many other “top” colleges find that they receive significant financial aid and graduate with little or no student debt. In fact, well-known “expensive” colleges are often less costly to attend than “second tier” or even state colleges.

Every college is now required by federal law to have a financial aid calculator on the college’s website. Use the [financial aid calculator](https://portal.wsac.wa.gov/a/aid-calculator/) to really understand how much financial aid your family will probably receive from the college.