

**NOVEMBER FOR FAMILIES OF 11THGRADE STUDENTS**

**STUDENTS**

**White Pass GEAR UP NEWSLETTER**

High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

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Tutoring Center: Tuesdays & Thursdays 3-4:30pm

**Did You Know?**

**Academic & Support Services Offered:** Most schools offer some type of academic support programs to help students. For example, some schools offer small tutoring programs. Others might have entire offices dedicated to help student achievement, including targeted services for diverse populations.

**Finding the Right Fit**

Choosing a college is a complex and often confusing process that requires students and families to know about the different types of schools, admission requirements, financial aid, and more.

When it comes to choosing a college, you will hear the term “fit” tossed around quite a bit. You’re told to find a college that is a good “fit”, but what does that really mean?

There are many colleges, programs, and degrees to choose from. High school juniors have spent some time thinking about different types of careers and have explored what sort of education beyond high school is necessary for that path. That exploration will help students figure out what school is the best fit.

The more the school is matched with your teen’s interests and needs, the better fit it is. The better the fit, the likelier it is that your child will stay and complete school successfully. It’s also important to think about other factors that can influence your child’s experience like the size of the school or the distance from home.

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| CHOOSING A COLLEGE |
| WHAT’S IMPORTANT | **WHAT’S NOT** |
| * Available academic programs & majors in the field of interest
* Available support services
* Campus atmosphere
* Distance from home
* Diversity of students
* Extracurricular activities
* Financial aid offered
* Graduation & employment rate
* Housing options
* Location
* Size of school & class size
 | * Best friend is going
* Boyfriend or girlfriend is going
* Good sports teams (for non-athletes)
* It’s closest to home
* School colors
* The ***sticker price*** of that program
 |

rt School Logo

**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**

* **Begin to prepare for the ACT or SAT.** Free test prep may be available at your school, your local community colleges, and community based programs. There is also free online prep at [www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat). You should plan to take at least one of these tests in the spring and again next fall during your senior year. Ask your counselor if you qualify for a fee waiver.
* **Create a list of potential college**s. Explore websites that can help narrow the search.
* **Attend college fairs and sessions with college representatives.**

**Family Checklist**

* **Attend college fairs with your child.** Encourage your teen to ask questions and talk with the college representatives.
* **If possible, take your child to visit college campuses**, preferably when classes are in session. Or encourage your child to participate in school field trips to campuses.
* **Help your child prepare for the SAT or ACT.** Find out if there is free test prep workshops at the school, local community colleges, or in the community. Free SAT Prep is available at: [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

**MYTH:** Your child should go to the most prestigious college to which he or she is admitted.

**REALITY**: Students should go to the college that is the ***best fit*** for them. If it happens to be prestigious, that's fine.

Best fit has to do with how students feel when they are on campus. Is the school a good fit for how your child learns? How do the professors teach?

Students who go to schools that aren't a good fit are likely to be unhappy, regardless of the school's prestige.

**TIP:** Check out these websites that can help find a great fitting college or program:

* **BigFuture** [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/)
* **College Raptor**

[www.collegeraptor.com](http://www.collegeraptor.com/)

* **Cappex**

[www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com/)

* **College Navigator**

[www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator](http://www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator)