

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER FOR FAMILIES OF 12THGRADE 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 that high school students may be able to get credit for a language, other than English, that they already know? Learn how through the **World Language Credit Program** at:

<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/world-languages/competency-credits-students>

**Resources & Support Services in College**

There are many resources to help students transition to college and get personal, health, financial, and academic support. In many families, this child may be the first person to go to college. Colleges know these students--sometimes referred to as ***first-generation***--may need more support and have programs designed just for them.

One program is called **TRiO Student Support Services Program or TRiO SSS**. In Washington State, 26 institutions offer TRiO — at both community colleges and four-year schools-- to help students who are low-income, first-generation or have disabilities. TRiO SSS focuses on making sure students have the social and emotional support they need to finish school. It also provides tutoring, teaches study skills, and offers academic counseling. Students also get help navigating the college system, like how to register for classes, access financial aid, and secure housing. Students are also welcome to participate in a variety of social and cultural events designed to help them build a supportive social network on campus.

Another great program is called **CAMP or College Assistance Migrant Program**. It helps students who are migratory or seasonal farmworkers (or children of these workers) during their first year at college. They can get free services like counseling, tutoring, skills workshops, financial aid stipends, health services, and housing assistance.

Campus **disability service offices** ensure equal access to educational programs and services by providing consultation on accommodations (placement testing, classroom, assistive technology, and more) for students with disabilities who are otherwise qualified for college.

Many schools offer a program called **First Year Experience**, which can help students transition to college throughout their first year. It is free and open to all.

There are also **free tutoring** and **writing centers** as well as **career counseling** and **academic advising** for students at all schools. Schools often have a **mental health counselor and health facility** on campus. Check out what supports are available at your college’s website. Some programs may require an application.

**Did You Know?**



**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

* **Senior Appointments continue, has your senior scheduled one with Mrs. Foley**
* **College and Career Fair November 3rd 10-2pm**
* **FAFSA filing will take place during November, be sure and schedule an appointment for “FREE money for college” (don’t miss this opportunity).**
* **Tutoring Tuesdays & Thursdays 3-4:30pm**

**Myth Buster**

**Student Checklist**

* **Schedule any necessary interviews.**
* **Complete college admission and financial aid applications**. If you plan to attend a community or technical college, don’t wait until the last minute to apply – financial aid could be gone and the classes you want could be filled. Also, keep copies of all forms you mail or submit online.

**Family Checklist**

* **Encourage your child to set up college interviews if they are necessary**. An interview is a great way for your child to learn more about a college and for a college to learn more about your child. Get an overview of the interview process.
* **Work together to apply for financial aid**. The earlier you apply, the better.
* **Learn about college loan options together.** Borrowing money for college can be a smart choice — especially if your high schooler gets a low-interest federal loan. Be cautious; learn about loan options and a [parent's role in borrowing money](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/loans/borrowing-the-parents-role-college-financial-aid).

**MYTH:** Students have to declare a major and decide a career before they choose their college.

**REALITY**: Absolutely not.

Most college applications ask what your "intended" major might be, but that does not mean it is set in stone.

College is a time for students to explore their academic interests and discover an area that they might want to major in.

More often than not, students will find their major is something they never even heard of in high school, so they have a good amount of time to discover and decide in college.