

**December FOR FAMILIES OF 11thGRADE STUDENTS**

**White Pass GEAR UP Newsletter**

High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

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Tutoring Center: Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:00-4:30 PM

**High School and Beyond Plan & Résumés**

Before your child graduates from high school, he or she will need to complete a High School and Beyond Plan that includes detailed information on his or her interests, classes, and plans. For juniors, this plan can help them determine which courses they should take to meet their goals after high school.

Your teen’s High School & Beyond Plan should include a completed résumé. A **résumé** (or activity log) is a good way to introduce yourself. It’s just a piece of paper, but it is helpful when it comes to applying for a summer job, internships, scholarships and college applications. A résumé summarizes your teen's experience and what he or she can do.

With the majority of scholarship deadlines falling between October and April, now is a good time to search for scholarships and gather any necessary documents that will help with the application process.

Many scholarship providers will expect your teen to include a list of any past and/or current jobs, internships, volunteer positions, extracurricular activities, awards, honors, and leadership positions. All of these details can be easily combined into a résumé and save time when filling out scholarship applications.

**Did You Know?**

Having a baby during high school can make pursuing higher education very difficult, but the barriers don't have to be insurmountable. Be sure to explore options including family housing, on-campus childcare, and o**nline and blended degree programs.**



**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

* **Family Event*: Financial Aid Night December 6th at 6pm in high school library***
* **Tutoring Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:00-4:30PM**
* **December 2nd- Virtual tour of Western during Core/Flex**
* **December 9th- Virtual tour of Whatcom Community College during Core/Flex**
* **December 16th- Virtual tour of Grays Harbor College during Core/ Flex**

**Myth Buster**

**MYTH:** If students plan to go to community college, they can enroll anytime.

**REALITY:** Community and Technical Colleges’ open door admissions policy means you won’t have to compete with others to be accepted. These colleges do not require SAT or ACT scores or essays, but they do require a placement test.

Each college has a slightly different admissions process. Some want everyone to fill out an application; others do not. 10th grade Smarter Balanced test scores can help your child decide which courses to take to be ready for college, and they tell colleges whether or not you’re ready for college-level courses. A score of 3 or 4, means your child is ready for college-level math and English. Ask your child’s counselor about Bridge to College courses if you child scores a 1 or 2.

These colleges are on a quarter calendar. Be sure to look at the instructional calendar for the quarter start and end dates at the college of your choice.

Being accepted does not always mean you are accepted into the specific program or classes of your choice. Certain programs have different admissions requirements, additional steps or forms: Running Start, International Students, high school programs, and healthcare programs such as nursing, corrections/law enforcement, to name just a few.

**Student Checklist**

* **Continue working on a résumé**—This will be an important part of your college application.
* **Meet with your guidance counselor** again to develop your senior schedule. Make sure that you will be enrolled in the most challenging courses for which you are qualified.
* **Register for a spring offering of the SAT and/or ACT.** Ask your counselor if you should take an SAT Subject Test this spring. Find out if you qualify got a fee waiver by talking to your counselor.

**Family Checklist**

* **Help your child develop a résumé.** Help your teen think about his or her accomplishments, activities, and work experiences.
* **Review PSAT/NMSQT results together.** Your child’s score report comes with a free SAT study plan. This online, customized plan is based on your child’s test scores and can help him or her work on areas that need improvement. Learn more about this individualized SAT study plan.
* **Discuss taking challenging courses next year.** Taking college-level or honors courses as a senior can help your child prepare for college work — and these are also the courses that college admission officers like to see. Learn more about advanced classes.