

**JANUARY FOR FAMILIES OF 9THGRADE STUDENTS**

**STUDENTS**

**White Pass GEAR UP NEWSLETTER**

High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

School Contact Information:

Main Office

360-497-5816

Personnel:

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Tutoring Center:

Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:00-4:30pm

**Did You Know?**

**College: Now 40% Off!**

College costs include tuition, fees, books, living expenses and transportation. However, **most students only pay about 60 percent of the advertised price** of a four-year college, once grant aid is included (and don’t forget about scholarships!). **Financial aid includes free money in the form of federal and state grants, scholarships, work-study jobs, and the College Bound Scholarship. Most students receive some kind of financial aid to help pay for the cost of their education.**

**How And When To Apply For Financial Aid?**

For scholarships, you can help your child can start searching now**.** For financial aid that comes from the federal or state government, the first stop is the FAFSA or WASFA in October of your child’s senior year of high school. FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Students must have a Social Security Number or permanent resident card to file the FAFSA.

If your child does not have a Social Security Number, your child can file the new Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) in order to be eligible for the Washington College Grant. Please go to <https://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa> for more details. Students are eligible to file the WASFA if they will graduate from a Washington high school or obtained a GED (or will do so before beginning college), and have or will have lived in WA for three years.

The best resource for families and students to get more information is [www.gearup.wa.gov](http://www.gearup.wa.gov) where you can learn more about our state’s most popular financial aid programs, such as the Washington College Grant, the College Bound Scholarship, and the Passport to College program for foster youth.

**If you want to go to college, you are living in the right state!**  Washington is **number one nationally** for students receiving undergraduate financial aid.

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**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

* **Tuesday 10th- afterschool tutoring**
* **Thursday 13th- Fire Academy presentation during core/flex & afterschool tutoring**
* **Monday 17th – NO School Martin Luther King Jr Day**
* **Tuesday 18th- afterschool tutoring**
* **Thursday 20th- Dental Assistant presentation during core/flex & afterschool tutoring**
* **Tuesday 25th- after school tutoring**
* **Thursday 27th- Aviation presentation during core/flex & afterschool tutoring**

**Myth Buster**

**MYTH:** Financial aid is just loans.

**REALITY**: There are types of financial aid that students do not have to pay back. These include:

**Scholarship money!** One of the best places a student can look for scholarships is on [thewashboard.org](http://thewashboard.org/login.aspx). It is a free online resource. Create a profile & it matches you with scholarships. Plus, it’s only for people who live in Washington State.

**Grants.** These are usually awarded to students whose families may not have the money to pay for college. They can come from the federal government, state government, or the college itself.

**Work-Study.** Rather than getting the money up front, it is earned through a job. There can be work-study job opportunities on or off-campus. Work-study jobs are typically up to 19 hours per week, and sometimes pay a student more than minimum wage.

**Student Checklist**

* **Create an account and profile at** [**thewashboard.org**](http://thewashboard.org/login.aspx)  and review your scholarship matches**.**
* **Complete the FAFSA4Caster.** Get an idea of the amount of financial aid your teen can expect to receive – and make the process easier in the future! Get started today at [**www.fafsa.ed.gov**](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)**.**

**Family Checklist**

* **Help your teen create an account and profile at** [**thewashboard.org**](http://thewashboard.org/login.aspx)  and review scholarship matches**.**
* **Complete the FAFSA4Caster.** Get an idea of the amount of financial aid your teen can expect to receive and make the process easier in the future! Get started today at [**www.fafsa.ed.gov**](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)**.**