



NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT  
PLANNING FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

# The GEAR UP Gazette

DECEMBER

FOR PARENTS OF 9<sup>TH</sup> & 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS

## GRADES MATTER

Getting good grades in challenging classes throughout your student's high school experience is important in college admissions decisions. Good grades also show that your student understands the material and is ready for the next step in his/her academic career, whether that be the next semester, the next grade level, or college or training after high school.

Here are four ways that will help your student perform his/her best:

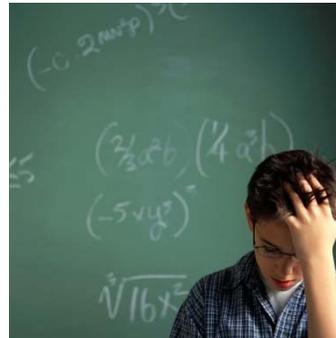
### Get organized.

Stay on top of homework and tests with a planner and keep loose papers in a folder or binder so nothing gets lost.



### Get help.

Ask your teachers, classmates, parents, and siblings for support if there's something you don't understand.



### Get smart friends.

Research shows that good (and bad) grades are contagious, so choose friends wisely.

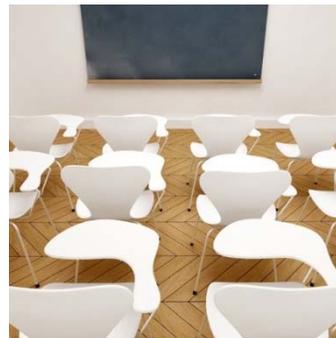
*Source: Education Commission of the States*



### Sit front and center.

Students who sit in the front and center of the classroom have been shown to achieve higher average test scores.

*Source: Rennels & Chaudhari*



## DID YOU KNOW?

The top three factors in college admissions decisions are 1) grades, 2) how challenging classes are and 3) standardized test scores.

## COLLEGE MYTHS (AND REALITIES)

**MYTH:** A lot of out-of-class activities will compensate for poor grades.

**REALITY:** Colleges DO consider out-of-class activities such as athletics, student government, and music when they review an application. But colleges look at academic performance first. Lots of out-of-class activities help only if the college already believes students can do the work. Same goes for high test scores – this may help your student’s chances of getting into college but grades and the classes she took will be the primary thing that colleges consider.

*Source: [pics.collegetrends.org/myths.cfm](http://pics.collegetrends.org/myths.cfm)*

## PARENT CHECKLIST

- Encourage your student to do well in school.** Let him know that you expect good grades and for him to take challenging classes. Ask about homework, tests, and other assignments to stay connected with what she is doing in school. Encourage your student to take advantage of tutoring and additional support at school online with free websites like [khanacademy.org](http://khanacademy.org).
- Talk to teachers and staff.** Connect with the school during conferences, open houses, school activities and events or just because. Consider volunteering at the school or chaperone a field trip.
- Review requirements for the schools your student might be interested in attending.** Websites such as [bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org) let you search and compare schools as well as determine whether your student is on track to meet admissions requirements. Look for the Academic Tracker button to see if he is on track!

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs and is a federally-funded program that helps rural, low-income middle and high schools prepare students for education after high school.

Visit [oregongearup.org](http://oregongearup.org) to learn more and access resources to help your students make a plan. © 2016 Oregon GEAR UP

**COLLEGE.** It's not a dream, it's a plan.