



NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT
PLANNING FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

The GEAR UP Gazette

DECEMBER

FOR PARENTS OF 9TH & 10TH 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 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 her best:

Get organized.

Stay on top of assignments and tests with a planner or calendar 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 your friends wisely.

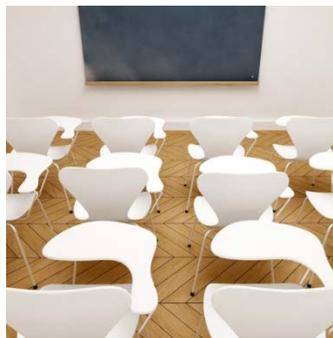
Source: Education Commission of the States



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, 1988



DID YOU KNOW?

The top 3 factors in college admissions decisions are:

**GRADES • STRENGTH OF CURRICULUM •
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:
<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 that you expect 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.
- 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 admissions requirements for the schools your student might be interested in attending.**
Websites such as bigfuture.collegeboard.org let you search and compare schools as well as determine whether your student is on track to meet admissions requirements.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

For more information, contact:

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 to learn more and access resources to help your students make a plan.

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