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The GEAR UP Gazette

9th - 10th grade issue

Jump Start Your Future



Earn college credit in High School

TIPS ON HOW TO JUMP START YOUR COLLEGE CAREER

The first two years of high school are important! Teens might be learning how to drive a car or even getting a first job. It's also an important year for their academic career. Encourage your teens to set themselves up for success by preparing for the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) or ACT Aspire, by taking more challenging classes like dual-credit courses, and by pursuing leadership opportunities in school or in the community.

Challenging classes like dual-credit courses in high school:

- Give students opportunities for college-level learning.
- Prepare students for college.
- Allow students to earn college credit that may be applied toward a degree.

Earning college credits in high school can save students time and money when they get to college. Ask your child's guidance counselor about what dual credit options are available. For example, your school might offer:

- Advanced Placement (AP)
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- University of Cambridge International Examinations
- Running Start
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Dual Credit
- College in the High School
- Gateway to College
- Technical College Direct Funded Enrollment Programs



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.

Gear Up Right Choices for Youth

Why go to college?

- **Options!**– Schooling opens doors you wouldn't otherwise have.
- **New experiences**– Whether you stay close to home or go out of state you will see and learn lots of new things.
- **Money**– Education pays! College graduates earn 60 percent more money in salaries than a high school graduate.
- **Independence**– College students run their schedules, classes, and free time
- **Discover Passions**– You might find that the new things you are exposed to are things you really love!
- **Job Security**– Those with college degrees have lower unemployment rates than those with only high school degrees.

Did you know?

A college education is worth more today. There's a wider earnings gap between college-educated and less-educated Millennials when compared with previous generations.

Student Checklist

Apply it

- Consider taking a practice (PSAT/NMSQT) or ACT Aspire.
- *Keep your options open*—take the most challenging courses you can. Meet with your school counselor to talk about options, and sign up for the classes you need to graduate and to get into college.
- Continue extracurricular activities.

Family Checklist

- *Make sure your child meets with the school counselor.* Your student should schedule a meeting to talk about college and career options and to make sure they are in the appropriate classes.
- Check in regularly about schoolwork. To find out about your child's grades, and attendance, you can use the school's online system, like Power School. Check this free, online system to keep up with your child's progress.
- Talk about extracurricular activities.
- Help your student get ready to take preliminary exams. Taking the practice tests can help your child prepare for college admission tests. Students can also use their score reports to figure out which academic areas they need to work on.



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