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The GEAR UP Gazette

9th - 10th grade issue

Staying Ahead in High School

GRADES MATTER

4 THINGS TO REMEMBER



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

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

Career Exploration

Help your teen by encouraging him or her to explore options now.

1. Ask your child to think about his or her interests. Need help? Have your child try a interest inventory on azcis.intocareers.org.
2. Consider how to get there. It's good to know what skills, classes and degrees different jobs require. Get information about educational requirements for different jobs.
3. Help your teen choose some of these ideas or come up with his or her own:
 - Volunteer where you're likely to meet someone who has one of the jobs you're interested in.
 - Look into a paid or unpaid internship.
 - Job-shadow for a day.
 - Conduct research at the library or online.
 - Find a mentor who can give you perspective and advice.
 - Talk to family members and friends who work in those careers or know others who do.



Apply it



Student Check

- Start a portfolio of your work and a list of your awards, honors, paid and volunteer work, and extracurricular activities. Update it throughout high school.
- Discuss next year's classes with your family and guidance counselor. Make sure you take the kind of challenging courses college admission officers expect to see.

Family Checklist

- Discuss next year's classes. Make sure your children are challenging themselves and taking the courses college admission officers expect to see. Learn more about the high school classes that colleges look for.
- Check in regularly about schoolwork. If your child is having problems in a class, encourage participation in study skills and tutoring activities.

Did you know?

According to a recent Gallup & Lumina poll, 84 percent of business leaders said the amount of knowledge of potential hires is very important, 28 percent said a candidate's college major is important, and 9 percent said the college where the candidate received a degree is very important.

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