Preparing for High School
The work students do in middle school and high school is very important in setting the direction for their adult lives. Their choices and actions today, while they are in middle school, will affect the work they do in high school and the opportunities they have after high school.

To prepare for high school, it’s important for students to make the most of their time in middle school. Talk about planning ahead. How could they make their time in high school count? Whenever possible, make sure your child takes advantage of the following opportunities:

- Opportunities to apply for or test into advanced or honors courses (such as advanced math)
- Opportunities to start high school-level courses while in middle school (such as world languages)
- Extracurricular activities, sports, and clubs
- Career exploration opportunities in middle school and high school

Source: Career Guidance Washington

Did You Know?
Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with schoolwork, dealing with a bully, or facing some other serious challenge. By 9th grade, regular attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

Source: Attendance Works
**Myth Buster**

**MYTH:** College planning starts in the junior year of high school.

**REALITY:** Middle school isn’t too early to start thinking about college and career.

College look at classes and grades from a student’s 9th grade year on.

It’s important for teens to make a long-term plan about the classes they will take, the type of college they want to go to, and the kind of career they want.

Source: Oregon GEAR UP

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**March Sources**

- **Career Guidance WA**

- **Attendance Works**

- **Oregon GEAR UP**
  - [http://orengearup.org/resource/parent-newsletters](http://orengearup.org/resource/parent-newsletters)

- **Know How 2 Go-Make a Plan**
  - [http://knowhow2go.acenet.edu/middle-and-high-school-students/make-a-plan.html](http://knowhow2go.acenet.edu/middle-and-high-school-students/make-a-plan.html)

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**Student Checklist**

**Talk to your guidance counselor** about college preparatory, Advanced Placement (AP), and other honors-level courses you should be taking throughout high school (9th through 12th grade).

**Sign up for pre-algebra**, if at all possible.

**Attend school regularly, study hard, turn in all assignments**, and do your best to earn good grades.

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**Family Checklist**

**Encourage your child to do well in school.** Let your children know that you expect good grades and attendance. Ask about homework, tests, and other assignments.

**Talk to teachers and staff.** Connect with the school during conferences, open houses, and school activities and events. Consider volunteering at the school or chaperoning a field trip.

**Help your child maintain daily routines**, such as finishing homework and getting a good night’s sleep.

Source: Know How 2 Go

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Visit [readysetgrad.org](http://readysetgrad.org) to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.