SEPTEMBER FOR FAMILIES OF 10th GRADE STUDENTS

Earn College Credit While Still In High School
Tenth grade is an important year! 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, taking more challenging classes like dual-credit courses, and pursuing leadership opportunities in school or 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.

Plus, earning college credits in high school can save students time and money when they get to college. Visit the dual-credit lookup tool to find out how their AP, IB, or Cambridge test scores might count for college credit.

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
- Career Link—South Seattle Community College Career Link Program
- Technical College Direct Funded Enrollment Programs

Did You Know?
Washington’s economy is rooted in science, engineering, and technology. Washington ranks 4th in the country for technology-based corporations, but 46th for participation in science and engineering graduate programs. We need to close the growing gap between the skills people have in our state and the skills our economy requires.
**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

- National GEAR UP Week:
- Student Orientation:
- Family Orientation:

**Student Checklist**
- 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 [AP](#), [IB](#), Running Start, and College in the High School 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 sophomore should schedule a meeting to talk about college and career options and to make sure he or she is taking the most appropriate classes.  
- Encourage your child to set goals for the school year.  
- Make a plan to check in regularly about schoolwork. To find out about your child’s grades, assignments, and attendance, you can use the school’s online system, like Skyward. Check this free, online system at least weekly to keep up with your child’s progress.  
- Talk about extracurricular activities.  
- Help your 10th grader get ready to take preliminary exams. Taking the PSAT/NMSQT or the ACT Aspire this fall can help your child prepare for college admission tests. Sophomores can also use their score reports to figure out which academic areas they need to work on. Learn more about the [PSAT/NMSQT](#).