

College Planning 9th/10th Grade

Gibson Ek High School

Counseling Department

Counselor

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Schedule

Daily

Starting the Process . . .

Ready. Set. Go.

These are some steps you can take as a 9th and a 10th grader to make sure you're on the right track for college. This list will help you navigate the college planning process.

Milestones

- ✓ Prepare for and take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) given every year in October of the 10th grade year.
- ✓ Attend the College Planning Days fieldtrip in March of the 10th grade year to learn about 2 and 4 year public and private colleges Washington.

Important Activities

At Gibson Ek

Develop your Learning Plan to include a vision that describes where you want your life to go after high school. It doesn't have to be specific yet, but define the direction you want to go. Set goals that you can work on in your 9th and 10th grade year to help you get there.

- Take Interest and career surveys offered.
- Take the ASVAB (this is not just for students interested in the military).
- Engage in the internships, job shadows, and informational interviews, including those that currently don't feel directly related to a future career. This is your time to explore!
- Attend college visits.

Outside of Gibson Ek

What you do outside of school can be just as important and impactful on your future as what you do in school. Engage in activities that relate or develop your interests and passions. Search out opportunities that can help you learn important job skills and allow you to be an active member of your community.

- Participate in extracurriculars: clubs, sports, etc (colleges would rather see a student participating in 1 meaningful activity than a string of unconnected experiences)
- Apply for and get a job! Earning your own income feels great. It also enables you to start saving for your future.
- Search out summer opportunities. Jobs, volunteer work, summer only internships are great ways to further learn about your own interests and gain experience.

- With your family, do some research about the cost of college and postsecondary education. Many students use financial aid to cover college costs. Find out what financial aid is, where it comes from, and how you can apply for it. Read the U.S. Department of Education's Funding Your Education (about federal aid programs). studentaid.ed.gov/sa/ • Attend college and career fairs.
 - Visual and Performing Arts College Fair: Oct 2nd 6:30pm - 8:30 pm Fisher Pavilion, Seattle Center: GOTOMYPVAFAIR.COM
 - National College Fair: Nov 2nd 9am - 12 pm & Nov 3rd 12pm - 4 pm Washington Convention Center: GOTOMYNCF.COM
- Tour College Campuses. If possible, take advantage of vacation or other family travel time to visit colleges and see what they're like.

Resources

Big Future bigfuture.collegeboard.org College Board

Ready Set Grad readyssetgrad.wa.gov Washington Student Achievement Council

Check out a College www.sbctc.edu Washington State Community and Technical Colleges

