

# Welcome!

GRADES

9 & 10

## Learning Partnership Guide

### OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

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**1.**  
THE EARLY YEARS:  
**Building the foundation**

**2.**  
WHOLE CHILD:  
**Thriving, confident, responsible individuals**

**3.**  
ACTIVE LEARNERS:  
**Engaged, empowered critical thinkers**

**4.**  
CONTENT-AREA COMPETENCE:  
**Mastery of all subjects**

**5.**  
PERSISTENCE TO GRADUATION:  
**High school graduation through successful transitions**



**9th and 10th grades are a time of great transitions.** Your scholar is entering high school and exploring ideas about their future. This guide provides an overview of the academic standards and social emotional milestones that your child will experience this year. Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all scholars are prepared for success. This guide provides ideas of supporting your child as they begin to make plans for their future. Use this guide to help you speak with your child's teacher about their progress and growth over the year as well as to begin planning for your child's post-secondary experience.



**FEDERAL WAY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

[FWPS.ORG](http://FWPS.ORG)

EACH SCHOLAR: A VOICE. A DREAM. A **BRIGHT** FUTURE.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English in 9th and 10th grade focuses on reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language standards. Scholars focus on reading and rereading complex fiction and nonfiction materials. They become skilled at gathering information, evaluating sources, and citing material accurately. Scholars make and defend claims/arguments to show what they understand about what they have read and researched. Scholars focus on speaking clearly and listening attentively. They express their own ideas and build on the ideas of others.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

In 9th and 10th grades, scholars apply their deeper understanding of social studies concepts on a global scale. Scholars explore major themes and developments that shaped the modern world, including human rights, revolution, and democracy, to develop an understanding of the roots of current world issues. Scholars will also practice literacy standards as they use essential questions and inquiry to work on skills such as reading, speaking, writing, and thinking like a historian. Scholars hone their ability to gather and evaluate information, and then use that information as evidence to support a claim.

## MATH

The high school math standards are organized around five conceptual categories: number and quantity, algebra, functions, geometry, and statistics and probability. These standards allow scholars to practice applying mathematical ways of thinking to real world issues and challenges; preparing scholars to think and reason mathematically. In addition, high school standards set a rigorous definition of college and career readiness, by demanding scholars to develop a depth of understanding and an ability to apply mathematics to novel situations, as college students and employees regularly do.

## SCIENCE

During grades 9–12, your child will begin to form deeper connections between concepts and skills previously learned in grades 6–8, such as applying statistics to scientific questions, evaluating limitations of models and creating algorithms to solve problems. The four major strands of science are: physical sciences, life sciences, earth and space sciences, and engineering design.

## TECH SKILLS

- Revise work using feedback provided by multiple, online audiences.
- Independently design and publish multimedia content.
- Select technology to fit personal needs and style.

## SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL *grades 9 & 10 milestones*

- Crave adult connection even while fighting for their own identity; need adults to listen and negotiate rules and requirements
- Often embarrassed to be seen with parents; can be critical of parents' dress, habits, friends, and ideas
- Social circle is large and varied; includes a diverse group of friends
- Very anxious to be liked
- Exploring own sexual identity
- Adult personality continues to develop
- Typically, loud and rambunctious
- Like to be busy and involved in many extracurricular activities
- Safe, positive rites of passage can be important to emerging sense of self
- Can be a pain at home and a star at school
- May give in to peer pressure to see doing well in school as "nerdy" or "uncool"
- Service projects, student government, class dances, sporting events, and other group undertakings often lead to a first career interest
- Begin to develop distinctive sense of humor; can be extremely funny and creative
- Generally happy and easy-going
- Recognize own strengths and weaknesses



### Ways to talk with your child's teacher

- Ask to see a sample of your child's work.
- Ask the teacher questions such as: Is this piece of work satisfactory? How could it be better? Is my child on track?
- How can I help my child improve or excel in this area?
- If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help their learning outside the classroom?



### Ways to talk with your child's teacher

- Where is my child excelling? How can I support this success?
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help my child improve in this area?
- Are there options provided by the school for enrichment experiences in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM areas) or for scholars having difficulty in mathematics?

## QUESTION & ANSWER

**Q:** *Who do I contact if I have a concern about my child?*

**A:** First, always contact your scholar's teacher/s and discuss your concern. If your concern has not been fully addressed, you can contact the school counselor or principal.

**Q:** *How do I stay informed about my child's progress in every class they take?*

**A:** ParentVUE allows you to see all of your child's courses, assignments, and current grades. If you have a concern about your child's grade, first, ask your child to speak with their teacher in that class. Your child should ask what they can do to improve the grade and make a plan to do so. If you are still concerned, contact your child's teacher directly to see how you can support your child's success in that class.

# high school & beyond plan CHECKLIST

Each year, middle and high school scholars are required to complete components to build their High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP).

## GRADE 9

**Get into good habits.** This is the time to start off on the right foot, doing well in classes, earning good grades, get to know requirements for high school graduation, and to start and maintain good habits, such as organization, time management, studying, and putting forth best efforts. Grades are posted on the transcript this year, which is an official, permanent record of classes and grades.

### REQUIRED

SEPTEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete the Panorama Survey. <input type="checkbox"/> For personalized emails/text messages regarding career and college field trips, experiences and support, go to My Account under the person image icon in the top right, then switch ON for the Text/SMS Messaging setting and enter your cell phone number in the profile section. <input type="checkbox"/> Complete the Personality Assessment in the Explore Section.
OCTOBER	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete the Intelligences Assessment in the Explore Section. <input type="checkbox"/> Complete the Learning and Productivity Assessment in the Explore Section. <input type="checkbox"/> Create 4 SMART Goals for the year in the Portfolio Section (College, Career, Financial Aid and Academic). <input type="checkbox"/> Take the PSAT test. This is good practice for the SAT. Taking this test in 9th grade will help you better prepare.
NOVEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> Make a plan for completing your required 24 hours of community service ( <a href="http://www.fwps.org/communityservice">www.fwps.org/communityservice</a> ). <input type="checkbox"/> Review graduation requirements at Scholar Led Conferences (SLC) and create a plan to stay on track with your HSBP and grades to maintain a good Grade Point Average (GPA).
DECEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete the Interest Profiler Assessment in the Explore Section and research 3–5 suggested careers from your assessment results. <input type="checkbox"/> Create your Career List by clicking the Heart icon and clicking Add to Career Plan in the Career Plan Section and review career plan summaries. <input type="checkbox"/> Identify 9–12 post-secondary pathway choices.
JAN	<input type="checkbox"/> Review Transcript and create and update your Academic Planner in the Academic Plan Section in preparation for course registration.
MAR	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete Work Values in the Explore Section.
APR	<input type="checkbox"/> Create and/or update your Resume under the Portfolio Section.
MAY	<input type="checkbox"/> Review and assess your 4 SMART Goals for the year (College, Career, Financial Aid and Academic).
JUNE	<input type="checkbox"/> Update your required hours for community service by logging experience(s) into the Experience Section in the Portfolio.

## GRADE 10

**Explore interests by joining clubs, volunteering and doing community service.** This will look great on post-secondary applications, and can help you decide where your passions are. Continue good work habits to keep your transcript looking great.

### REQUIRED

SEPTEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete the Panorama Survey. <input type="checkbox"/> For personalized emails/text messages regarding career and college field trips, experiences and support, go to My Account under the person image icon in the top right, then switch ON for the Text/SMS Messaging setting and enter your cell phone number in the profile section. <input type="checkbox"/> Complete the Interest Profiler Assessment in the Explore Section.
OCTOBER	<input type="checkbox"/> Create or update 4 SMART Goals for the year in the Portfolio Section. <input type="checkbox"/> Take the PSAT test.
NOVEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> Make a plan for completing your required 24 hours of community service ( <a href="http://www.fwps.org/communityservice">www.fwps.org/communityservice</a> ). <input type="checkbox"/> Complete the Intelligences Assessment in the Explore Section and research 3–5 suggested careers from your assessment results. <input type="checkbox"/> Update your Career List. <input type="checkbox"/> Review graduation requirements at Scholar Led Conferences (SLC) and create a plan to stay on track with HSBP.
DECEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify 6–9 post-secondary pathway choices such as college (Target School, Likely School and Stretch School), training, certificate and/or employment. If your pathway is not listed in the college section, then complete a journal entry to list the pathway you are pursuing.
JAN	<input type="checkbox"/> Review Transcript and create and update your Academic Planner in the Academic Plan Section in preparation for course registration.
APR	<input type="checkbox"/> Create and/or update your Resume.
MAY	<input type="checkbox"/> Review and assess your 4 SMART Goals for the year (College, Career, Financial Aid and Academic).

For the district calendar go to  
[www.fwps.org/schoolcalendar](http://www.fwps.org/schoolcalendar)



# GETTING READY FOR college & career



## PSAT & SAT school day

10th graders take the PSAT/NMSQT

The PSAT experience provides valuable feedback through the Student Score Report. You can then work on any of your academic weaknesses while there is still plenty of time to make improvements.



### OUR COMMITMENT TO SCHOLARS AND FAMILIES

All scholars learn best when they experience physical and emotional safety in classrooms and schools. Scholars and families should expect to see the following adult actions:

- Provide a welcoming environment to support building trusting, encouraging relationships with all families.
- Prioritize scholar voice and participation in shaping the learning and classroom culture.
- Teach for understanding to assure scholars have high expectations and academic supports to grow intellectually.
- Focus on scholar cooperation to encourage scholars to learn from and help others.
- Implement school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports so that all scholars and adults live out their shared beliefs and actions that make school a safe and fun place to learn.

### ATTENDANCE

Scholars who maintain good attendance through all years of school:

- Achieve grade level standard at a higher rate
- Graduate from high school at a higher rate
- Develop good habits that contribute to success in school and in future careers

For each day a scholar is absent it takes an average of three days to catch up.

### BEHAVIOR & SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

The purpose behind Culturally-Responsive Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (CR-PBIS) is to make schools more effective, efficient, and equitable learning environments for all scholars. By teaching scholars expectations and acknowledging positive behavior, adults increase the predictability, consistency, positive climate, and safety of all at school. Social emotional learning skills are embedded throughout the school year. To learn more about CR-PBIS and social emotional learning at your school, contact your scholar's teacher or principal.

### HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND PLAN

Scholars should begin mapping out their High School & Beyond Plans and find out about what courses to take that will lead to specific post-secondary education, training and college plans. Grade level specific High School & Beyond Checklists can be found at [www.fwps.org/CCR](http://www.fwps.org/CCR). Scholars can also use their [www.MaiaLearning.com](http://www.MaiaLearning.com) account to plan and discover more using interest surveys, academic planning tools and scholarships, and college and career searches. Go to [MaiaLearning.com](http://MaiaLearning.com), select "Sign In with Google" and use your P12 Gmail account and password.

### COURSE PERFORMANCE



**GRADES 10-12** ▶ Passing an advanced course (AP, IB, CAMBRIDGE)



**GRADE 9** ▶ Passing grade 9 courses earning 6 credits

**GRADES 8-9** ▶ Passing Algebra 1

**GRADES 6-7** ▶ Passing ELA and Math courses

**GRADE 3** ▶ Reading on grade level

**GRADES K-2** ▶ Learning how to read



# Family Resources

The resources below will help connect you and your child with important learning for this school year.

**We are committed to a bright future for your child!**



## Digital Communications Tools in Federal Way Public Schools



### Canvas

Canvas is a Learning Management System (LMS) that provides students and parents access to digital learning, classroom(s) weekly schedules, and more. To access Canvas, go to FWPS' Launchpad to Learning at <https://learn.fwps.org>. Your child's username is their Student ID, and their password is the same one used to log in to computers at school.



### Phone Calls

Teachers may contact you using a calling system. You may notice the number may appear from a different area code than our geographical area.



### Texting

#### Staff texting to parents and students

Communication tools are used by staff such as teachers to communicate with parents via email, texting and voice and students via email. Texting is available for students ages 13 & over. Students and parents are automatically opted in. For more information and on how to opt out, visit [www.fwps.org](http://www.fwps.org).

#### School and district-wide texting to parents

Texting is also available from your child's school and the school district. More information can be found here:

[www.fwps.org/parentnotification](http://www.fwps.org/parentnotification).



### Zoom Meetings

For some families, video conferences will be the best way to connect with your child's teacher. Your child's teacher may send you an invitation to participate in a Zoom video conference. To access this meeting on a computer, click on the link provided in the invitation. To access this meeting over the phone, you can call the number provided or download the Zoom mobile app at <https://www.zoom.us/download>.

### Did you know our website is translatable in our top languages?

To change the language on the FWPS website:

- Go to [www.fwps.org](http://www.fwps.org)
- Click on the 'Translation' at the top right of the webpage
- Select your preferred language from the drop-down menu

### Does your child(ren) need access to a computer to access their learning at home?

Please indicate technology access needs for your child during the online registration process. If you have questions or need assistance, contact your child's school.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

How-to videos and resources can be found on our website at [www.fwps.org](http://www.fwps.org)

**NONDISCRIMINATION and EQUAL  
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT**

Federal Way Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin or ethnicity, religion, creed, sex or gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, age, marital or family status, veteran or military status; disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal. The district provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. For more information: [www.fwps.org](http://www.fwps.org)

## ParentVUE

**ParentVUE** is your way to check your child's grades, attendance and communicate with your child's teacher. To access ParentVUE, visit <https://grades.fwps.org>.

*Parents and guardians, make sure your contact information is up to date!*

In order to receive communications from the district, school and school staff, it's important that your contact information in your ParentVUE account is current.

You can update your account by visiting <https://grades.fwps.org>.

If you have not activated your ParentVUE account, please contact your child's school. To receive voice messages, ensure you have entered a mobile or home phone, and selected the corresponding type.

ParentVUE allows for two-way communication between teachers and parents in **multiple languages**. To receive messages in a language other than English, please set your preferred language on the login page of ParentVUE or on the mobile app.

When your child's teacher sends a message through ParentVUE, you will receive an email containing the message. To respond to this message, you must login to your ParentVUE account. (Do not respond to the [noreply@fwps.org](mailto:noreply@fwps.org) email notification.)

If you need assistance with ParentVUE, visit [www.fwps.org/families](http://www.fwps.org/families) or email [grades@fwps.org](mailto:grades@fwps.org).

## Parent Portal

The **Parent Portal** is the place where you will find all needs related to your child's learning! Visit [www.fwps.org/families](http://www.fwps.org/families) to find frequently asked questions, links to common resources, "How to" videos related to digital resources, and more.

## Launchpad to Learning

**Launchpad to Learning** is a one-stop online location that provides access to all school applications and educational resources.

*Check it out at: <https://learn.fwps.org>.*

