

# Explore

## SchoolLinks Tasks



*SchoolLinks is an online tool to help students explore their future self — using personality, skills, and interests to determine the best career & pathway fit.*

- Onboarding
- Set/Update Career Goal
- Set/Update Post-Secondary Goal
- Favorite Two Careers
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Financial Aid Lesson
- Submit 7<sup>th</sup> Grade High School & Beyond Plan

## Future Ready Event



### Career Exploration Day

All 7<sup>th</sup> graders participate in a career exploration day to explore career fields and education pathways. Students will hear from representatives across diverse careers, participate in hands-on activities, and begin to reflect on their own interests and options for their future careers.

## Stay Connected



### Attend Family Events

Student-led conferences, open house, Future Ready Fest, and CollegeCon are great opportunities to explore future opportunities and connect with your school community.

### Check Out Quarterly “What’s the Scoop?” Newsletter

Discover the possibilities that await and stay up to date on the latest college and career news, events, and opportunities. Available the last week of each quarter on Parent Square and email.



In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, you will start to **Explore** your future. By investigating your interests, skills, and values from now until graduation, you will gain insights into potential career paths—the possibilities are truly limitless.

## Family Checklist



- Choose at least one club or activity to join.**  
When students participate in school activities outside of classes, they are likely to develop strong friendships, enjoy school more, and do better academically.
- Make a commitment to strong attendance.**  
Grades are higher for most students who miss less than two days of school per month. Set a goal family goal to improve or maintain your attendance.
- Family Discussion Ideas**
  - What classes are you enjoying & what do you like most about them?
  - Which clubs or activities are you currently involved in or are interested in joining?
- Career Exploration Day Family Discussion**
  - Which careers did you learn about at Career Day?
  - Which one was the most interesting & why?
  - What type of education is needed for the career?
  - Is there any part of this career you would not enjoy?
  - Would you consider this career in your future or is another career more interesting right now?



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# Experience



In 8th grade, you continue hands-on **Experiences** to see the possibilities of your future. Seeing is believing!

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- Update Resume/Profile
- Set/Update Career Goal
- Set/Update Post-Secondary Goal
- Favorite 3 Careers
- 8th Grade Financial Aid Lesson
- Submit 8th Grade High School & Beyond Plan

## Future Ready Event



### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade UW Experience

The UW Experience is an early college awareness exploration event hosted in partnership with University of Washington Seattle. Students participate in an interactive campus scavenger hunt, student panel, and hands-on academic activities to help them see their future self as a college student. This event helps cultivate a strong foundation and understanding of possible pathways after graduating high school and reinforce the idea that college can be affordable.

## Stay Connected



### Attend Family Events

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## Family Checklist



### Stay Engaged!

Students who are involved in extracurricular activities are more likely to stay healthy, enjoy school, and get better grades. Choose at least one activity or club to join.

### Establish good habits.

8<sup>th</sup> grade is a great time to challenge yourself so that you are ready for high school. Review your attendance and grades from the last term and set goals for improvement. Discuss a plan to tap into additional support if needed.

### Consider high school options.

8<sup>th</sup> graders are automatically assigned to a comprehensive high school unless they apply to a school of choice school. Be on the look out for information and events to learn more about your choices.

### Attend your high school transition night.

In the spring each high school will have an event for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and families. Mark your calendar to begin to get connected to your new school.

### Family Discussion Ideas

University of Washington (UW) Visit Family Discussion

- What was the most interesting thing you learned on the UW visit?
- What careers/jobs are you interested in right now?
- Do you know what type of education after high school is required to get into that career?



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# Connect

## SchoolLinks Tasks



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- Update Resume/Profile
- Set/Update Career Goal
- Set/Update Post-Secondary Goal
- Complete Learning Styles Assessment
- Favorite 3 Careers
- 9th Grade Financial Aid Lesson

Submit 9th Grade High School & Beyond Plan

## Future Ready Event



### Transition to High School Team Building

At the beginning of 9<sup>th</sup> grade all students participate in a facilitated activity day to build connection to their peers, advisors, and school. Research shows that students who feel connected to their school and earn all of their credits in 9<sup>th</sup> grade are more likely to graduate on time and transition into the post graduation path of their choice.

## Stay Connected



### Attend Family Events

Student-led conferences, open house, Future Ready Fest, and CollegeCon are great opportunities to explore future ready opportunities and connect with your school community.

### Check Out Quarterly “What’s the Scoop?” Newsletter

Discover the possibilities that await and stay up to date on the latest college and career news, events, and opportunities. Available the first week of the month on Parent Square and email.



In 9th grade its vital to **Connect** to your school community to set yourself up for success. 9th grade sets the tone for your future, make it count!

## Family Checklist



- Explore ways to get involved!**  
High School is the perfect opportunity to explore interests and expand your horizons. Students who participate in clubs, sports, and activities are often more successful. Attend open house, visit your school's website, and read newsletters to stay up-to-date and find new ways to connect to your school community!
- Learn about graduation requirements.**  
Visit the Highline Public Schools website and review the graduation requirements. Set up a meeting with your school counselor if you have questions.
- Monitor attendance, grades and credits.**  
Set a weekly schedule to review attendance and grades in Student and ParentVue so there are no surprises. Passing all classes in high school is critical for on-time graduation. Students begin to establish an official transcript in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Family Discussion Ideas**
  - What is something you will work on or try for the first time in 9<sup>th</sup> grade?
  - What are you most curious/excited/scared about for your first year of high school?
  - What do the learning styles assessment say about how you learn best? How will you use this information to be successful in school?
  - What careers are you currently interested in?
  - Are there any support you need or want so that you can be successful?



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# Envision

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- Update Resume/Profile
- Set/Update Career Goal
- Set/Update Post-Secondary Goal
- Complete Top Skills Assessment
- Favorite 4 Careers
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Financial Aid Lesson
- Submit 10<sup>th</sup> Grade High School & Beyond Plan

## Future Ready Event



### Career Exploration Trip

All 10th graders will participate in a career exploration field trip that aligns with their interests. To prepare for this experience, students will review their Top Skills assessment. This will help them understand more about their preferences and priorities for their future careers.

## Stay Connected



### Attend Family Events

Student-led conferences, open house, Future Ready Fest, and CollegeCon are great opportunities to explore future ready opportunities and connect with your school community. Visit the website for upcoming events and programs.

### Check Out Monthly Student Scoop Newsletter

Discover the possibilities that await and stay up to date on the latest college and career news, events, and opportunities. Available the first week of the month on Parent Square and email.



In 10th grade you **Envision** a future shaped by your own hopes, not by limits. Dream big, explore freely, and take the first step toward the future you want.

## Family Checklist



- Explore Dual Credit Opportunities**  
Engage in discussions about Dual Credit options to determine which paths may align with future plans. Programs like College in the High School, Running Start, Puget Sound Skill Center and CTE Pathways allow students to earn credits towards a credential while still in high school. For further information, please visit your school counselor.
- Make a plan to regularly check in about schoolwork and Future Ready plans.**  
It is important to schedule time to connect as a family or with a trusted adult about progress, challenges, and opportunities at school. This is also an ideal time to share your Top Skills assessment results.
- Family Discussion Ideas**
  - What skills do you want to grow this year—academic, social, or practical?
  - Is participating in a dual credit program a good fit for you? Why or Why not?
- Post Career Exploration Trip Family Discussion Ideas**
  - What new careers did you notice? What stood out?
  - Did the career exploration trip change or strengthen your career goal?
  - What careers match your interests or personality traits? (Hint: The Find Your Path assessment in SchoolLinks matches careers by personality, revisit your results if you need some inspiration).



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# Decide

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- Update Resume/Profile
- Set/Update Career Goal
- Set/Update Post-Secondary Goal
- Favorite 3 Careers
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Financial Aid Lesson
- Submit 11<sup>th</sup> Grade High School & Beyond Plan

## Future Ready Event



### FutureU @ Green River College

Students can anticipate a captivating day filled with exploration and learning opportunities. Students will have the opportunity to connect with more than 60 representatives at a resource fair, including two-year community and technical colleges, four-year colleges and universities, apprenticeships, trades and career training programs, and the military. Through the FutureU simulation, students will learn how to budget effectively and explore how college and career training programs can be affordable and attainable. Additionally, students will get to experience campus life, learn about student support programs, and begin to envision what college can offer them.

## Stay Connected



### Attend Family Events

Student-led conferences, open house, Future Ready Fest, and CollegeCon are great opportunities to explore opportunities and connect with your school community.

### Check Out Monthly Student Scoop Newsletter

Read the Monthly Student Scoop newsletter for college and career news, events and opportunities. It comes out the first week of each month in ParentSquare and email.



In 11th grade your plan will become more clear as you **Decide** your next step after graduation. Exploring your options, narrowing your plan, and taking proactive steps towards your future are what this year is all about.

## Family Checklist



### College & Career Training can be Affordable, Explore How!

College and career training can be affordable with the right supports and resources. Having a strong understanding of financial aid, grants, and scholarship can help you reach your dreams without breaking the bank. Visit [wsac.wa.gov/apply](http://wsac.wa.gov/apply) to learn about resources to fund the future you choose!

### Sign Up for Future Ready Bot

Future Ready Bot is a messaging platform designed for students in Highline Public Schools, offering essential updates, information, and reminders to help you plan for your future. Scan the QR code to register and receive monthly texts that will keep you informed and engaged.

### Schedule a FutureU Family Meeting

After attending FutureU, you should have a strong idea of what career path you are interested in pursuing. Share your reflections and list of top 3 programs of interest using the FutureU Family Discussion questions to get the conversation started.

### Family Discussion Ideas

- What options are you considering after graduation (college, apprenticeships, job training, military)?
- Explore the qualifications of the pathway you are interested in. Are you on track to meet the minimum requirements? Do you have the necessary GPA? Courses completed? If not, what adjustments need to be made?
- What support do you want from your family?



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# Launch

## SchoolLinks Tasks



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- Fall Senior Survey
- Complete Resume/Profile
- Update Career Goal
- Update Post-Secondary Goal
- Senior Graduation Survey
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Financial Aid Lesson
- Submit 12<sup>th</sup> Grade High School & Beyond Plan

## Future Ready Event



### Senior Blitz

Your senior year is the perfect moment to set your plans in motion. During the fall semester, you'll have the chance to collaborate with your counselor and school staff to create a detailed, step-by-step plan for applying, enrolling, and pursuing the pathway of your dreams!

## Stay Connected



### Attend Family Events

Attend family events like student-led conferences, open house, Future Ready Fest, and CollegeCon to explore future-ready options and connect with your school community. Future Ready Fest is a strong starting point for seniors to get help with financial aid, applications, and meeting college reps.

### Check Out Monthly Student Scoop Newsletter

Check out the Monthly Senior Scoop for senior-only opportunities and updates for your final year. Available the first week of each month on ParentSquare and email.



It's time to finish strong, graduate, and **Launch** into your Future! 12th grade is all about executing your plan!

## Family Checklist



- Set the Tone for the year at Future Ready Fest!**  
Future Ready Fest is a one-stop event to start senior year strong. Get help with financial aid, applications and your senior timeline. There are activities and learning for the whole family.
- Stay in the know with Senior Scoop**  
Check the Senior Scoop newsletter the first week of every month on email and ParentSquare to stay in the loop on events, programs and resources. Tune in so you don't miss what's coming up.
- Take Action & Apply**  
Submit your financial aid and college or program applications early. Make a list of deadlines and turn everything in on time. Getting it done ahead of schedule can improve your chances of receiving aid and being admitted.
- Seek Assistance**  
Navigating your senior year can be overwhelming. Use the help around you. Reach out to your counselor, Future Center staff, teachers or another trusted adult when you need it. They're here to help.
- Family Discussion Ideas**
  - Reflect on your senior year plans following the Fall Senior Blitz meeting.
  - Are you on track to graduate? What confirms this?
  - What support or resources will you need after high school?
  - What help do you need to complete the FAFSA or WASFA?
  - What assistance is needed at home to ensure your successful completion of high school and graduation?



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